

Subj: **Re: Good morning**
Date: 12/27/2010 2:26:26 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: PLMossman@aol.com

Dear Phil:

My daughter and her husband had a bridge playing cruise scheduled to leave Fort Lauderdale FL on December 26, 2010 at 4 PM. They live in New York City and scheduled Delta flights for early morning that day via Atlanta. Atlanta airport was closed due to a gigantic snow storm there and about 500 flights thru there were canceled the day before including theirs. They found that from Kennedy instead of La Guardia there was a JET BLUE flight direct to Fort Lauderdale on Xmas night some time. Thank goodness they were able to stop partying and reduce to carry on luggage for the cruise. They got to Lauderdale long past the middle of the night. They found an overnight bed facility there and made the boat early. Whether they have enough bridge opponents I have not yet heard. The security would not let my family carry a snow shovel on the plane as they made need it if the boat needs paddles ..

Thank you for the Noe 12 information. I do not think I have all that you found and would appreciate it if you send it to me at your convenience. It sounds wonderful and I need it if Mr. Salmon states anything to support his alleged opinion. I am planning to get Noe 12 out of the bank vault to have tests made at Washington University Earth and Planetary Science lab. Thank you again. Eric

In a message dated 12/27/2010 8:51:50 A.M. Central Standard Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Good Morning Eric:

How is your weather today? We are currently having a blizzard.

Quite by serendipity I reread something yesterday in an article I've had for many years written by M.A. Stickney in the *Essex Institute Historical Collections*. This may apply to your Noe-12.

Stickney reported that most of the coins from the Castine Hoard were purchased by John Warren, an Englishman and coin and antiquity dealer on Tremont Street. Stickney copied a notice from the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of July 14, 1841. He later moved to 293 Washington Street until his death. The remainder of his collection was sold to some Institution in Connecticut. Warren sold his Pine-Tree shillings for \$1. As I said, this could be the provenance of your Noe-12.

Do you want the newspaper citations? I can get them at the University.

Best,
Phil

60 Montgomery Street
Bangor, Maine 04401-3841
January 20, 2011

Dear Eric:

At last I'm able to do something for you!

I'm so glad I looked at my files because, as I said in my email, I found important information about the dispersal of the Castine hoard which I'll relate to you.

There are six documents enclosed which I'll describe to you.

#1: The two **Wilson Museum Bulletins** are reprints from 1859 written by the historian Joseph Williamson. He did not have any hands-on connection with the hoard but just wrote about the history of the region.

#2: **Telegraph (Gloucester, Mass)**. At the time the hoard was uncovered in 1841, the local physician, Dr. Joseph Stevens, was the one who saved a sample of each type of coin recovered. There are several letters and notes about the hoard written by him in the Castine Historical Society which I've read. One of these, he sent to his son, Joseph, Jr., who was living in Gloucester, Mass. The son had this printed in the local paper and that reprint is enclosed. The coins rescued by Dr. Stevens were given by his heirs to the Maine Historical Society and those are the ones Noe studied for his Castine monograph. [I found some mistakes in that monograph.]

#3: The other good summary was in the **National Aegis** [Worcester, Mass.] which was reprinted in many newspapers of the day. This is the original rendition. There are two different articles in that paper on the same day. What is great about this, other than the Castine news, is that it tell us that Pine Tree money was still found in circulation in the 1840s!!

#4: The other item from the **National Aegis** [Worcester, Mass.] of July 28, 1841, contains two paragraphs which are reprints from two different Maine papers. These items – either one or the other - were copied in several other papers. This paper carried them both and joined together them in one item.

#5: In Horace Greeley's **Log Cabin**, a New York Republican paper, appears an item similar to the first paragraph from the **National Aegis** [item #4] but adds a final sentence about the dispersal of the hoard and Mr. John Warren.

#6: From the **Historical Collections of the Essex Institute** is the article by Matthew A. Stickney that I had read but overlooked for 20 years!! In a footnote he tells us more about Mr. Warren and all the Pine Tree money he bought from him. Apparently Mr. Warren was the source of all the Mass silver that was sold from the hoard except for the few that Dr. Stevens obtained. What I had overlooked is the description of the Potosí

eight-reales counterstamped with the NE as per the legislation of October 8, 1672. I'm sure that Stickney must have been very familiar with the original NE Mass silver. So there was at least one full-weight Spanish 8-R that had a legitimate c/s. I can say full weight because the coin he describes had full margins and no apparent clipping. The conjoint NE c/s on the ANS coin [see below] and the one in Lou Jordan's book (fig. 34, p 307) look so modern and nothing like Hull's NE, I doubt that Stickney would have been fooled.

(Do you know where the Stickney collection went? Of course, the Brasher doubloon is at the ANS.)

OK – off to the post office before the next blizzard. We can thank Lou for the newspaper research. He found them and emailed them to me.
I hear St. Louis is not immune to snow and winter weather!

Enjoy!

Best regards,

Phil



This is the ANS 8-R with the fake c/s. [ANS 1991.78.128]

PS on what day do I get to sing
Happy Birthday to you?
P.

Subj: **in the mail**
Date: 1/21/2011 9:38:29 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: ljordan@nd.edu

Dear Eric:

Before the blizzard hit last night, I mailed you a priority package with my file of materials about the dispersal of the Castine hoard. The newspaper clippings were provided by Lou Jordan.

Do you know the provenance of your Noe-12? According to the facts in these references, it would appear your coin is from the late 1600s. Although it may be a contemporaneous counterfeit, it would not have been made in that era to beguile collectors. I can't wait for its analysis.

The snow is piling up and it will be 0° tonight so it is light and fluffy.

Best,
Phil

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 1/28/2011 6:24:13 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

In a message dated 1/28/2011 4:17:10 P.M. Eastern Standard Time,
EricNumis@aol.com writes:

I do not know what the description is of this lot and wonder if you have a way of getting that information easily. It would be of great help to me. This would certainly supplement some of the material you were kind enough to send me recently.

Hello Eric:

I'll ask the ANS librarian to see if they have the catalogue. If they don't, then I'll ask the C4 group.

Thanks for the comments about Lou's introduction. You received exactly what he sent without any editing.

Regards,
Phil

To Mossman

With respect to Pine Tree Noe 12, I find that the John Kleeberg's description of Massachusetts coins on exhibit at ANS in 1991 in New York, described on page 196 item 106 the Noe 12 piece and states as part of the description of the Castine hoard source, William Eliot Woodward Sales, October 1863 Lot 2467.

I do not know what the description is of this lot and wonder if you have a way of getting that information easily. It would be of great help to me. This would certainly supplement some of the material you were kind enough to send me recently.

Thanks.

Eric

1/28/11

Subj: **A request**
Date: 1/29/2011 2:20:34 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: hahn@numismatics.org
CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Hello Ms. Hahn:

I believe that Andy introduced us via an email message a few weeks ago. There is an important reference for which Eric Newman and I are searching in an old sales catalogue we hope is in your collection.

The catalogue in question is the William Eliot Woodward Sale of October 1863, lot 2467. We are trying to trace this coin to the Castine hoard; it was later designated as a Noe-12. John Kleeberg discussed this in the 1991 COAC, p. 196, item #106. Our hope is that the catalogue might give more information as to its provenance.

Thanks so much. In return I'll send you a snow shovel.

Best regards,
Phil Mossman

Subj: **Re: Castine**
Date: 2/4/2011 8:38:24 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

In a message dated 2/3/2011 3:18:46 P.M. Eastern Standard Time,
EricNumis@aol.com writes:

Dear Phil:

I believe you said that you found an error in the Noe article about the Castine Hoard. Are you
in a position to tell me about it? Eric

Hello Eric:

One error was that #7 [p. 10] is a sixpence which he labeled as #8 on plate I.
And #8 on p. 10, a shilling, is plated as #7. It was just a matter that the images for
#7 and #8 described in the text on p. 10 were reversed on plate I.

This is not an error *per se*, but documents from Castine show that #24 and #25 were
added to Dr. Stevens's original collection 1865 and 1866 and were not part of the
group of 17 that he selected in 1841. This is obvious because they were dated 1768
and 1769 and are outside the hoard.

Also on p. 7, the last paragraph needs fixing. On line 6, both #24 and #25 have to
be rejected because of date and the documentation that they were added in 1865 and
1866. We don't know which one was added when. The third line from bottom
should read: "which follows, being Nos. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, and 25." He says #8
in the text [p. 10] should be rejected [which is true] - but recall he has his images
mixed up and this appears as shilling #7 [plate I] that has to go. But #9 is OK
because it is a Noe-29 that was from the hoard but given separately from the
Stevens grant. This donation was separate but well documented. The others
rejected as part of the hoard were property of the Maine Historical Society that were
added by dribs and drabs over the years. So we can document 17 originals plus the
Noe-29 as from the hoard. Of these, the MHS has 17 in their collection and #9
belongs to the Wilson Museum in Castine.

I hope this is not as clear as mud.

Best,
Phil

ERIC P. NEWMAN

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 14, 2011

Mr. Philip Mossman
Mr. Louis Jordan

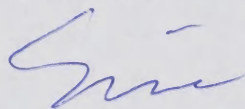
Dear Phil and Lou:

I am writing both of you together because you both have been so helpful in furnishing dates for the unique (so far) 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Noe 12 which I first acquired from the Col. Green Estate in 1941 with B.G. Johnson and then transferred to the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society about two decades later. As you know, it is from the Castine Hoard. I wanted to try to improve the past images of it and just tried varying the use of a scanner. Certain portions of prior images seemed clearer than others so I adopted a different method of placement on the glass of the scanner. I rotated the coin in different degree positions on the glass, hoping clarity might improve. I also moved the coin to different areas of the glass of the scanner.

The best of the resulting images of each side of the coin are enclosed. I hope you like them. If you can suggest any improvement opportunities, please let me know. The trimming of the edges is usually clear. The erroneous misspelling of MASASTHUSSETS is perfect, "possibly causing these dies to be abandoned from regular coining. The reversed Ns had been accepted on prior coinage and would not cause a rejection of the Noe 12 dies."

Please ask John Hull if you can.

Thanks again,



Eric P. Newman

Subj: **Thanks**
Date: 2/28/2011 9:11:35 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

Thank you so much for the picture of your baby! I know it will be genuine!!! I can't wait for its analysis, but I guess I'll have to!

Best,
Phil

3/29/11 loaned to Peter Gospar
for measurement & study

Small Pine Tree unknown ob + rev eBay source in 2007

Noe 12 Green Estate Castine Hoard

NE X11 holed Bulbosa coin

NE X11 Gift to SPANES

Overweight Noe 9 Pine Tree Green collection source.

SPAN

3/29/11 Peter Gaspar

X-R Fluorescence

Deep surface penetration
silver - $\frac{1}{10}$ mm. ± 4 mm
copper is $\frac{1}{100}$ mm. of depth
0.01 mm

Spec Gravity

Trace & minor elements

Weight

Major elements.

Pine Tree & Bay - Levine

Nov 12 : GPN.

NE Bullowa holed.

NE Kagin Heft

Pine Tree overweight Nov 9
Green collection.

Five Terns Pooned for measurement & study

SPH

Subj: **Re: Your AOL**
Date: 4/1/2011
To: PLMossman@aol.com

Dear Phil:

The equipment at Washington University is fixed and the Noe 12 and some other items are delivered this week to my professor friend.

I have a message from Hoover about my Hoch experiences. I had very limited contact with him but he gave me the opportunity to write the history of Crosby's development problems of his book. Eric

In a message dated 4/1/2011 7:50:21 A.M. Central Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric:

This is a real April Fool's Day; up to 14 inches of snow expected with gusts up to 50 MPH! So much for global warming in our neck of the woods.

The reason I asked about your AOL came about when I checked the link that tells me when a message has been read; your address kept appearing as "unavailable." AOL is famous for doing funny things and so I was wondering if my messages were getting through or diverted to cyberspace. There was a while when our messages were not getting through to Canada and France.

Talking about Canada, Oliver Hoover asked me when I contacted you next time to ask you about the "memorial item about Al Hoch." I have no more details than that. I am currently assisting him with the April issue of the *Colonial Newsletter*. He is still embarrassed about printing the wrong half of the photo of you and Al.

I can't wait [but guess I'll have to] for them to fix their machine to analyze your Noe-12. I've not heard any more discussion about the Salmon book. Between us, I question whether it will make any lasting impression since we are so used to Noe.

I hope all is well with you and yours.

Best,
Phil

Subj: **Re: Your AOL**
Date: 4/2/2011 9:45:13 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

In a message dated 4/1/2011 7:59:05 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
EricNumis@aol.com writes:

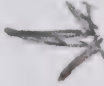
The equipment at Washington University is fixed and the Noe 12 and some other items are delivered this week to my professor friend.

Great! I'll have insomnia until I hear. I just know that Noe-12 will be OK.
Phil

Noc 12

Subj: **Re: misc**
Date: 6/2/2011 2:09:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: AndyRama@aol.com

Thanks for checks received data. The Mantia check for \$25 should go into EPNNES just as the \$1000 check from Heritage. Mark on each deposit slip (at least the duplicate) each item deposited.

 Glad Peter Gaspar will soon complete the Massachusetts silver project. Send me a copy of the report which will probably accompany the five coins.

Many many more thanks to you for the spectacular 100th celebration. Ope

In a message dated 6/2/2011 1:48:20 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, AndyRama@aol.com writes:

Peter Gaspar returned my call and said that he has one more measurement to do and expects to return the coins early next week. I told him I'd wait for his call to arrange a time of transfer. Once we get those coins back, I'll put them and the contents of the red bag in the vault.

I found the 1,000 check to Newman Money Museum. You've already endorsed it to EPNNES. A few other checks for EPNT and EENT have also come in. Some little checks from Quest securities litigation (320 and 30) also came in, and I've given Gerry the documentation for her file.

Before I make all the deposits, I need to know into which account (EPNT or EPNNES) you want me to put the \$25 money order from Richard Mantia.

I'm FedExing a package today which contains several birthday cards, a few minor publications, obit of Louis Sachs, and lots of photos of your birthday weekend.

The bank is sending me an ATM card for mom. Once I get that, I'll send it to MV and will let you know when and how it was sent.

Subj: **Greetings!**
 Date: 7/17/2011 6:28:51 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: PLMossman@aol.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

At last I have an unencumbered minute to write you – your last message was from May 16 to which I now reply. On May 25th, when I believe your odometer was turning over to 100, we were passing papers on our new Virginia home which backs up to the George Washington National Forest and Kelley Mountain in the Blue Ridge chain. Our problem was that we had no real action in selling the Bangor house for over 18 months and then had two bids arrived within four hours! The one we accepted required that they take possession in 30 days. This time schedule gives new meaning to the term “rat race.”

Life has been hectic for us getting settled. We moved from a three-storied 1892 home, in the family since 1936; we swapped this 4000 sq ft dwelling [with a full basement and a barn of three stories] for one floor of 1940 sq. ft. and a two-car garage. A lot of downsizing was required but my numismatic library did not suffer – except that I can't find everything. The house was really too much for us to handle and all our family had left for warmer climes – VA, NC and Brittany. I think our heating bill will be happier!

I'm gradually returning to writing. Last week both Lou and I assisted Chris Salmon with a CNL paper on his microanalysis of his Noe-13 [ex-Ford]. It turned out to be 95.77% silver! I'm so glad you two are communicating. It really bothered me when you were not in the loop. I'm still waiting for Robert Hoge to do the specific gravity estimates for the ANS pieces. The chapter in my book is such that I can add data at the last minute.

Can I ask about the progress of your Noe-20? If you are keeping these data secret pending your release, I understand, but I'm good at keeping confidences. I can treat it like Noe-20's medical record in a doctor/patient relationship! I have such a strong feeling that it is a Hull coin whose legends did not pass muster. Truly, I'll be depressed if it is not sterling.

Much against my better judgment, I've consented to speak at C4 in November in Boston. Together, Lou and I chose a discussion of colonial and Confederation exchange rates and how they are calculated. We have the distinct impression that many collectors don't really understand them and just recite them by rote. The collection of broadsides from your Numismatic Education Society will be a great help – if its still OK to reproduce them. By now you've probably seen the AJN article on demonetized coppers. It doesn't paint the full story, in my opinion.

Yes – I've read lots of accolades about you and Evelyn over the past several weeks. They are all true. I don't mean to embarrass you, but you have been such a positive influence on me and so supportive of my endeavors. The thing that really stands out about

you is your willingness to share – it is unparalleled. Don't blush – it's true. So thank you one hundred times over!

Now to resume my book!

My kindest regards to you both,
Phil

Subj: **Re: Greetings!**
Date: 7/21/2011 4:29:03 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: PLMossman@aol.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

In a message dated 7/21/2011 2:39:22 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis@aol.com writes:

When you use the reference to Noe 20 it is assumed you mean Noe 12.

Dear Eric:

You are so right! I got confused - I find that as I'm getting older I sometimes mix things up. Thanks for straightening me out! Some day it might happen to you.

My best,

Phil

Subj: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Date: 7/26/2011 1:20:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: gaspar@whoi.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

I found the following web site for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

<http://www.whoi.edu/>

From that web site i found the following contact information:

Phone and Email

(508) 457-2000 (General)

(508) 289-2252 (Information Office)

information@whoi.edu

(508) 289-3340 (Media Relations)

media@whoi.edu

Hope that helps!

Peter

Mike Saito
Chemist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Tel. 508 289 2393

info from
Erin at Woods
7/26/11 Hsk

called several times 2011
no answer July 25
[Signature]

In a message dated 7/27/2011 3:07:39 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric:

Written below is my addition to my chapter on Massachusetts regarding your Noe-12. It is my conclusion, which I stated, that this coin has the oldest known provenance of any Massachusetts silver. As such, it needs to remain in the spotlight regardless of its analysis. Am I right? I've left the conclusion open pending its medical exam!

Are you hot in St. Louis? Although it can be mid-90s in the day, it is 63 or so at night. I hope all is well with you and yours.

Best,
Phil

The single known example of Pine Tree shilling (Salmon 10-X, Noe-12) has been considered a contemporaneous counterfeit by many because of its nonconforming features – all the “N”s backwards and Massachusetts written as MASASTHVSETS. It is interesting that probably more is known about this unique coin than any other member of the Massachusetts silver series. Its provenance can be traced with reasonable certainty as far back as the 1680s to the French trading post at Castine, Maine, which had been conducting an active commerce with Boston as evidenced by as many as 300 pieces of Massachusetts silver within the hoard, which was probably deposited in 1704 and not discovered until 1840.^[1] It was in that era, 1693, when Baron Castin had sworn allegiance to the English to keep peace in the area. When the hoard was dispersed, a perceptive member of the Castine community, Dr. Joseph Stevens, saved one coin of each major type for historical reference for a total of 17 examples. Although some townspeople saved a few other pieces, the majority was sold in Boston at the price of silver.

Those coins of numismatic interest were purchased (1841) by John Warren, an antiquities dealer at No. 186 Tremont Street, Boston, who priced Pine Tree shillings at \$1.00.^[2] In October 1863, a unique specimen “from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1840” – now known as Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) – was featured in the *Historical Magazine*^[3] as having been the former property of a Portland, Maine, resident. That same month, and specifically identified as such, the same coin was auctioned by Bangs, Merwin and Co. of New York in a sale^[4] which featured the collection of W. Elliot Woodward, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who had acquired the piece. Estimated at a value of \$6.00, the coin was purchased by an individual identified only as “Murray.” The

coin is now in the collection of Eric P. Newman (Figure 2:5).

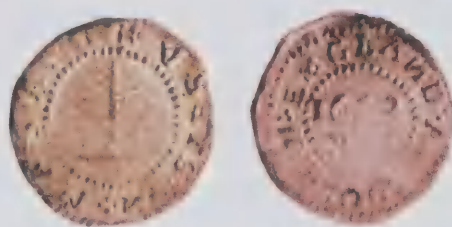


Figure 2.5: The unique Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) Pine Tree Shilling (62.0 grains). Because of the legends with all backwards "N"s and the unorthodox spelling of MASASTHUSETS, this struck shilling has long been considered a contemporaneous counterfeit which can be traced back to Castine Deposit of the late 1600's. (Courtesy of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.)

To be completed later.

- || The trading post at Castine was founded by the French in 1613 and then assumed by the Plymouth Colony in 1626 as its most northern outpost. It was taken back by the French in 1635 and held until 1654 when it reverted to Massachusetts. Again in 1667, it was returned to France by treaty at which time Baron Jean Vincent de St. Castin arrived. Except for brief intervals when captured by the Dutch, Castine remained French until 1689 after which date it was permanently English although the baron was allowed to remain. He departed for France in 1701 with his fortune. This hoard of coins was never "buried" but actually deposited on a hillside as though it was jettisoned in great haste. It remained undetected in the undergrowth until 1840 when estimates of its size varied from 400 to 2000 coins with a bullion value of \$500. The best summary of these events is found in the *Wilson Museum Bulletin*, Spring 2003, vol. 4, no. 24, continued in the Summer issue, vol. 4, no. 25.
- || *Log Cabin*, July 3, 1841, vol. 1, no. 31.
- || Vol. 8, no. 10 (Oct. 1863).
- || Lot 2467, p. 125.

Subj: **Re: An addition**
 Date: 7/28/2011 3:23:29 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis@aol.com
 To: PLMossman@aol.com

Dear Phil:

In your 7/27/11 message about Noe 12 I would like to defer for a while answering thoroughly because all my files are in St. Louis and I am awaiting the test results from Noe 12 and other related pieces from my professor friend at Washington University. I will be in Martha's Vineyard all of August. Same Email number and telephone as St. Louis.

I want to give you a few thoughts in the meanwhile.

I do not think it has been or is generally felt that the coin (Noe 12) is a contemporary counterfeit. Has it been written up as a counterfeit anywhere? Salmon has given no opinion on it and says it needs further research but gave it his new identification number nevertheless. He did not list, identify or number any related counterfeits, copies or forgeries so far as I know. He therefore seems to be in an ambiguous and odd position. He never had asked before his publication to examine my piece or furnish any data but only asked for an image which I sent him promptly. He now seems to want further data from me and others.

I have always asserted to any one who inquired that in my opinion the coin was genuine and relied to a substantial extent on the very early Historical Magazine comments. (I believe Historical Magazine should be specifically quoted rather than footnoted in your write up.).

In addition to data in an 1860s auction sale describing my piece in detail as being from the Castine Hoard there was in another different auction sale from the 1860s a mention of an unidentified Massachusetts shilling as being from the Castine hoard. This showed Castine source was of substantial importance.

It might be emphasized that the five backward Ns are found on other unquestionably genuine pieces and there are sometimes less than five backward Ns on other genuine pieces so that backward Ns from inexperienced or careless die cutters are commonly found on genuine pieces.

The extra letter on the obverse is unique and is an obvious error and may have the reason for little or no further use of the obverse die or both dies of Noe 12. This was pointed out before die classification.

When you point out that the provenance of Noe 12 was the earliest provenance of Mass silver that thought was new to me and I thank you.. The history of Castine and position of the hoard is wonderful.

Feel free to comment at any time. Eric

In a message dated 7/27/2011 3:07:39 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric:

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Those coins of numismatic interest were purchased (1841) by John Warren, an antiquities dealer at No. 186 Tremont Street, Boston, who priced Pine Tree shillings at \$1.00.^[2] In October 1863, a unique specimen “from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1840” – now known as Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) – was featured in the *Historical Magazine*^[3] as having been the former property of a Portland, Maine, resident. That same month, and specifically identified as such, the same coin was auctioned by Bangs, Merwin and Co. of New York in a sale^[4] which featured the collection of W. Elliot Woodward, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who had acquired the piece. Estimated at a value of \$6.00, the coin was purchased by an individual identified only as “Murray.” The coin is now in the collection of Eric P. Newman (Figure 2:5).

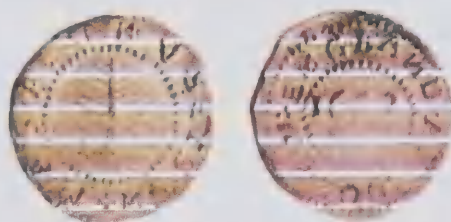


Figure 2.5: The unique Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) Pine Tree Shilling (62.0 grains). Because of the legends with all backwards “N”s and the unorthodox spelling of MASASTHUSSETS, this struck shilling has long been considered a contemporaneous counterfeit which can be traced back to Castine Deposit of the late 1600’s. (Courtesy of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.)

To be completed later.

[1] The trading post at Castine was founded by the French in 1613 and then assumed by the Plymouth Colony in 1626 as its most northern outpost. It was taken back by the French in 1635 and held until 1654 when it reverted to Massachusetts. Again in 1667, it was returned to France by treaty at which time Baron Jean Vincent de St. Castin arrived. Except for brief intervals when captured by the Dutch, Castine remained French until 1689 after which date it was permanently English although the baron was allowed to remain. He departed for France in 1701 with his fortune. This hoard of coins was never “buried” but actually deposited on a hillside as though it was jettisoned in great haste. It remained undetected in the undergrowth

until

1840 when estimates of its size varied from 400 to 2000 coins with a bullion value of \$500. The best summary of

these events is found in the *Wilson Museum Bulletin*, Spring 2003, vol. 4, no. 24, continued in the Summer issue,

vol. 4, no. 25.

Log Cabin, July 3, 1841, vol. 1, no. 31.

Vol. 8, no. 10 (Oct. 1863).

Lot 2467, p. 125.

Subj: **conversation with Mak Saito**
Date: 7/29/2011 6:27:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

I had a useful conversation with Dr. Mak Saito. He was very pleasant and helpful, and provided some interesting ideas. He was kind enough to send electronic copies of several recent publications that may explain the differential leaching of copper from Noe12.

I'll call you when I absorb the new material and formulate some thoughts regarding it. All the best. Love to Evelyn from Carole and me, and I hope you both have a pleasant weekend. Carole returns from Alabama today, and we'll go to Calhoun County tomorrow.

Peter

Dear Phil:

Thank you for following up on the Noe 12 matter. You asked about the details of my acquisition of the coin. When I purchased the American Colonial portion of the E. H. R. Green Estate collection in 1941 there were a large quantity of Pine Tree shillings in it. The coins had been appraised by F.C.C. Boyd in large group categories. I had examined the coins in New York City at the Chase National Bank before I bought them on behalf of Johnson and myself, never disclosing that Johnson was a participant. Johnson prepared a small envelope for each coin typed in red ink with the description of the coin, his estimate of its retail value and its apportioned cost to us in code lettering. The red ink was to distinguish the pieces from his own stock which was similarly described in black ink. I was to take such coins as I selected before any were withdrawn of equal cost value by him. He could sell whatever he withdrew. Sometimes we would let my selection of coins sit without action until I made up my mind as I had little knowledge of what I was doing and he helped me make up my mind. I had created the deal and he did everything he could for helping me build my collection wisely. I withdrew Noe 12 which he described as genuine and from the Castine hoard.

Subsequently he obtained from Mehl a list Mehl apparently prepared for the American Colonial coins in the Waldo Newcomer Estate which Mehl was to sell during the circa 1932- 1934 period. A very few super rarities were sold thru Raymond to Garrett but I do not know any details about the sale of the bulk balance to Green.

The examination of Noe 12 has been completed by the professors at Washington University but not yet written up because we are in contact with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (near where I am) as to variations if any in the acidity of the ocean around Castine and its possible effect on a silver and copper coin surfaces in an adjacent atmosphere for about 150 years. The leeching effect seems to be quite complex under different circumstances.

Thanks for the Historical Magazine data as my files are in St. Louis. Eric

In a message dated 8/7/2011 6:12:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

In a message dated 7/28/2011 3:23:29 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis@aol.com writes:

Feel free to comment at any time.

Dear Eric:

I hope you are enjoying the cool breezes on Martha's Vineyard! Certainly beats St. Louis this summer I bet. Today has been the only really uncomfortable day because of the humidity. Although it may be hot during the day, it is cool at night with a nice breeze.

I overreacted to Salmon's description of Noe-12 which he listed a 10-X. It appears he based his suspicions on an undocumented reference in Breen [p. 18]. Apparently only Breed and Picker questioned its genuineness, and they hardly qualify as "many." I really goofed here and did not follow my own rule never to quote Breen unless I can find independent confirmation.

REWRITTEN

Therefore my section now stands as the following – also adding your suggestion about the important *Historical Magazine* reference:

*****8

The single known example of Pine Tree shilling (Salmon 10-X, Noe-12)

has attracted interest because of its nonconforming features – all the “N”s backwards and Massachusetts written as MASASTHVSETS. Despite these irregularities, which may have been the idiosyncratic work of some apprentice die sinker, the coin is characteristic of other die-struck large planchets shillings. It is interesting that probably more is known about the provenance of this unique coin than any other member of the entire Massachusetts silver series! Its history can be traced with reasonable certainty as far back as the 1680s to the trading post at Castine, Maine, which had been conducting an active commerce with Boston for years as evidenced by the estimated 300 pieces of Massachusetts silver within the hoard which was probably deposited in 1704 and not discovered until 1840. It was during that era, when the French Baron Castin had sworn allegiance to the English in 1693 to keep peace in the area. When the hoard was dispersed, a perceptive member of the Castine community, Dr. Joseph Stevens, saved one coin of each major type for historical reference for a total of 17 examples. Although some townspeople saved a few other souvenir pieces, the majority was sold in Boston at the price of silver. Those coins of numismatic interest were purchased (1841) by John Warren, an antiquities dealer at No. 186 Tremont Street, Boston, who priced Pine Tree shillings at \$1.00. In October 1863, a unique specimen “from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1840” – now known as Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) – was featured in the *Historical Magazine*:

Unique Pine Tree Shilling: - In a collection of coins recently belonging to Chas. Payson, Esq., of Portland, Maine, I find a very rare and probably unique specimen of the Pine Tree coinage. The piece is peculiar in several respects, but it differs from all others which I have ever met with in the legend, which read *Masasthusets* instead of Massachusetts, as on the usual type. The coin is from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1840.

That same month, and specifically identified as such, the same coin was sold in a Bangs, Merwin and Co. auction which featured the collection of W. Elliot Woodward, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who had acquired the piece. Estimated at a value of \$6.00, the coin was purchased at an unknown price by an individual identified only as “Murray.” The coin is now in the collection of Eric P. Newman (Figure XX).

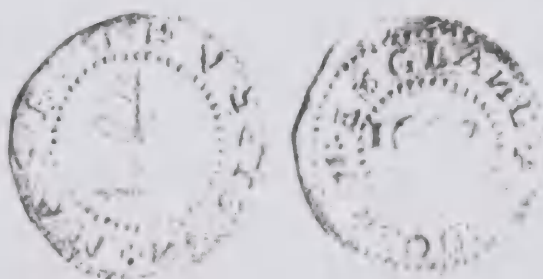


Figure XXX: The Noe-12 (Salmon 10-X) featuring five “N”s backwards and Massachusetts written as MASASTHVSETS. Many other of Hull’s shillings also

had backward "N"s but the altered spelling is unique.

To be completed later.

.....

I like this rendition better. Comments? I don't know about you, but I'm sitting on pins and needles waiting to hear about the coin's assay. Do you think the "W" who signed the *Historical Magazine* article was Woodward? When you bought it, did they tell you anymore of its story?

Have a nice summer:

Best

Phil

Breen, *Complete Encyclopedia*, p. 18.

The trading post at Castine was founded by the French in 1613 and then assumed by the Plymouth Colony in 1626 as its most northern outpost. It was taken back by the French in 1635 and held until 1654 when it reverted to Massachusetts. Again in 1667, it was returned to France by treaty at which time Baron Jean Vincent de St. Castin arrived. Except for brief intervals, when it was captured by the Dutch, Castine remained French until 1689 after which date it was permanently English although the baron was allowed to remain. He departed for France in 1701. This hoard of coins was never "buried" but actually deposited on a hillside as though it was jettisoned in great haste. It remained undetected in the undergrowth until 1840 when estimates of its size varied from 400 to 2000 coins with a bullion value of \$500. The best summary of these events is found in the *Wilson Museum Bulletin*, Spring 2003, vol. 4, no. 24, continued in the Summer issue, vol. 4, no. 25.

Among the pieces salvaged by Dr. Stevens were only two pieces of Massachusetts silver, a large planchet shilling, Noe-2, and a Noe-33 sixpence.

Log Cabin, July 3, 1841, vol. 1, no. 31.

Vol. 8, no. 10 (Oct. 1863).

Lot 2467, p. 125.

Subj: **Re: An idea**
 Date: 8/12/2011 12:50:50 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis@aol.com
 To: PLMossman@aol.com

Dear Phil:

I am delighted to have you give a program on the Noe 12 at the coming November C 4 Convention. I will furnish you with any further material on the subject which you may need and I have or obtain. Since Salmon did not accept its genuineness and it is better for you to present the matter rather than one like myself who might be construed to have a conflict of interest. You will have to decide whether you should notify Salmon or anyone else in advance (It might then leak out early) but I think that would dull the excitement for your original work.

I would suggest that after we read the analysis report that you mention the name of the professor who headed the research.

All of our sunsets are spectacular here too in spite of Congress. .

Eric .

In a message dated 8/11/2011 9:26:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Hello Eric:

I hope you are enjoying a beautiful sunset on Martha's Vineyard. It was quite spectacular here tonight.

An idea struck me that I wanted to run by you. They asked me to speak at C4 in Boston next November. In thinking about a topic that would not stray too far from my current book project, I thought I might modify a lecture I gave to a general audience on the Castine hoard in September 2008 at the Wilson Museum in Castine, Maine. During that summer, the museum had the loan of the 17 remaining coins from the hoard that were given to the Maine Historical Society. These were the very ones that Noe used for his monograph. The current staff found more correspondence in the museum archives about the hoard written in the 1840s by Dr. Stevens which I used for the first time. I really need to edit this material for a numismatic audience and have it published, but in the meanwhile, I thought it would be a good oral topic for the C4 gathering. **My idea** was to add the new material about your Noe-12 since your coin is a *bona fide* member of the hoard and certainly belongs to the contemporary Massachusetts silver series, regardless of what its silver content will turn out to be. [I'm sure it will be sterling!] Is this OK with you since I'd love to use your photo in the presentation. Most importantly, I don't want to steal any of your thunder if you are planning to use your new material for something else. Otherwise, I can just modify my 2008 lecture as it stands.

If you could let me know whether this idea fits into your plans, I'd be grateful [as always].

Best,
 Phil

Subj: **Castine query**
Date: 8/21/2011 2:56:19 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From:
To:

Dear Peter:

A different idea has occurred to me as to what may have affected surface metal content on our Castine shilling. The Castine hoard consisted primarily of a very large quantity of Spanish - American pieces of 8 from various mints, dates and ore sources. Is it possible that in an acidic sea water or in a spray of acidic sea water for longer than 100 years that such a group of Spanish American coins could have affected the chemical surface differently than if they were not present ? Might your Woods Hole or other information indicate any such finding?
Eric

sent to Rossman also

Subj: **Castine information**
Date: 9/27/2011 9:54:03 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Dear Eric,

You were certainly right about the sensational information about the Castine information that Dr. Mossman sent you. It is great!

All the best!

Peter

Subj: **Re: Hello!**
Date: 9/27/2011 1:33:24 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Dear Phil:

My Washington University researchers and I have been studying what Salmon just wrote in CNL. Have you formed an opinion as to some of its assertions? Have you ever found any indications that silver counterfeits of Massachusetts pieces were ever made or mentioned during their circulating period?

My researchers have not yet turned over their data to me as yet. We are now reviewing the amazing amount of data you furnished to me early this year and find that anything could have happened chemically to my Noe 12 because it was affected by so many conditions such as ocean salt spray, minimal soil overlay, roots of alder trees, worms, tide water, river content and floods, adjacent coins, wide temperature variations, etc.

I am still responding to all the fuss made over my age and still reading my summer's mail which was not forwarded to the Vineyard. Best to you Eric

In a message dated 9/26/2011 8:01:59 P.M. Central Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric:

Any more information from the laboratory about your Noe-12? I'm currently working on my talk to the C4 convention on the Castine Hoard. I have the story of its provenance well documented and was wondering if you have any more facts for me to add about its physical characteristics. I just learned that Chris Salmon will be talking on Mass silver.

Because of our move to Virginia, I had no time to work on my book until just recently. I find it amazing how I see things I had missed during this "cognitive vacation."

Hope all is well with you and yours.

Best,
Phil

Subj: **More on Noe-12**
 Date: 9/27/2011 3:50:40 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From:
 To:

Hello Eric:

In reply to your question about counterfeiting in silver, all the forgeries I've read about during the late 1600s and early 1700s were in pewter/lead. None in silver. Below is an excerpt from my chapter. Even a specific gravity of your coin would yield some information since a specific gravity in the 10.36 range [10.30-10.36] would indicate good silver no matter how the surface might have been contaminated with environmental crap. For the past two years, Robert Hoge has been going to check the sp. g. of the two Noe-13 coins at the ANS - I reminded him again yesterday. No matter what your Noe-12 ends out to be, genuine or forgery, there is certain proof that it was made and circulated contemporaneously with the Hull mint products.

Best regards,
 Phil

In 1674, the distinction of being the first individual found guilty of counterfeiting Bay Colony silver went to John DuPlisse who dispensed pewter imitations but, except for posting a £40 bond for good behavior, no specific punishment was mentioned. The first recorded conviction for the crime of clipping Massachusetts silver was the case of Peter Lorphelin, a Frenchman. His guilt was discovered under circuitous circumstances; on the night of August 8, 1679, a band of arsonists set a fire in Boston that consumed 70 warehouses, including contents, and 80 private homes. Ten individuals, who came under "vehement suspicion" for the devastation, were arrested and later banished from the colony. Lorphelin's behavior at the scene of the inferno "[rendered] himself highly suspicious of having a hand therein." When jailed and his belongings searched, implements for clipping coins plus "severall clippings of the Massachusetts money" were discovered among his possessions. While escaping conviction for arson, he could not satisfactorily explain to the court his possession of clipping shears, coin fragments, and the associated paraphernalia to melt silver. He was thus sentenced to stand two hours in the pillory, to have both ears cut off by the executioner, to post a bond of £500 for good behavior, and to pay court charges. His severe punishment, excessive under the law for a coin-clipping escapade, implied that it served as retribution for his probable involvement in the recent conflagration with its estimated £200,000 loss to the city. For the remainder of the century, five individuals were brought before Massachusetts courts charged with counterfeiting.

In 1690, William Grimes of Billerica, cited for forging two New England shillings out of pewter and lead, was later acquitted of the charge for lack of evidence. Another party, Martin Williams of Salem, was not as lucky in a 1691 case where he was found guilty of counterfeiting and passing five base metal eight-*reales*. For this indiscretion he was sentenced to the pillory for one hour a day for

three days and required to pay all court costs. The outcomes for the other three indictments were not recorded. The following year an act was passed setting the penalty for counterfeiting and clipping at forfeiture double the value of the false money, time in the pillory, plus the loss of one ear. Of the imposed fine, half would go to the informer and the remainder to the government. This 1692 law was disallowed three years later by the Privy Council in London, who, considering it too lenient, recommended the same punishment as imposed in England, namely the death penalty since the crime of counterfeiting the king's coin was considered treason. There was no further mention of legislative action regarding counterfeiting or uttering false coins until 1701 when a law was passed providing for a fine up to £50, confinement up to six months, and the forfeiture of triple the amount of the money counterfeited or passed – half to the government and half to the informer.

The first recorded presence of counterfeit Massachusetts silver within New York City occurred in May 1680 when two New Jersey individuals were jailed for the “Coyning of ffalse Boston money ... and putting it of [off] for Curr^t Coyne wth in the Cytie.” The two defendants in the case, John Burrell and William Shore, probably did not counterfeit the coins themselves but rather imported them from Massachusetts. These old records suggest that the increased incidence of clipped and counterfeit Boston and Spanish money finding their way into New York was the motivation behind the Council's proclamation of February 23, 1684, condemning the practice. Certainly the census of clipped Massachusetts silver circulating in New York City in 1711, as revealed from the H.M.S. *Feversham* recovery, was cause for the Council's apprehension. In the Jerseys, the circulation of false Boston money and Spanish cobs was reported as a concern to authorities well into the later decades of the 1600s.

Counterfeiting in general started originally as a solo operation but soon became a project for organized gangs. The first band to receive notoriety was one Robert Fenton, who, in Philadelphia in 1683, in league with two associates, Charles Pickering and Samuel Buckley, fabricated their own renditions of New England shillings and Spanish-American silver bits, a venture that earned Mr. Fenton an hour's seat in the stocks. Fenton, a smithy, was caught in a repeat performance in Connecticut in 1699 – but since that province had no laws against the practice, he escaped punishment. The same year he had the distinction of being the first culprit to be caught with counterfeit Portuguese half-joes in his possession.

Scott, *Counterfeiting*, pp. 16-17.

Brayley, *Boston Fire Department*, pp. 15-19; As a postscript, the “reign of the fire-bugs” did not

diminish after the exile of the ten suspects and Lorphelin's maiming. Scott, *Counterfeiting*, pp. 15-16

Massachusetts silver was variously know as “New England,” “Boston,” or “Bay Colony shillings.” The

name "Pine Tree" became a generic term after 1680 for all products of the mint. The other names, "Oak

Tree" and "Willow Tree" did not come into usage until the mid-1800 (Mossman, *Money*, p. 84).

Scott, *Counterfeiting*, pp. 17-18.

Crosby, *Early Coins*, p. 107.

Crosby, *Early Coins*, p. 115. The reader is referred to Jordan, *Hull*, Appendix II, for an excellent

chronology of the Massachusetts Mint and the relevant documents on early coining.

Scott, *NY*, p. 2; *New York Council*, vol. 5, p. 36.

From 1676 to 1702, New Jersey was divided into East and West Jersey, hence the term Jerseys refers to both colonies.

Scott, *NY*, pp. 2-3; Scott, *NJ-1*, p. 18; Scott, *Counterfeiting*, p. 26.

Gillingham, *PA*, pp. 4-5. Pickering, a goldsmith, was fined and obliged to make restitution to all who

accepted his spurious coins. His crime was not actually counterfeiting, but rather cutting Spanish silver

into small change equal in value to Massachusetts silver.

Scott, *Counterfeiting*, p. 25. The reference to "half-joes" in 1699 is confusing since the Johannes series

was first minted in 1722.

Subj: **Re: More on Noe-12**
 Date: 9/28/2011 6:45:54 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From:
 To:

Dear Phil:

Your summary of the counterfeiting of New England silver was a delight to receive and I have forwarded it to Peter Gaspar (Professor of Chemistry at Washington University) (Tel: 314 935 6568 office). I told him you were giving a talk in November on Noe 12. He told me yesterday that he wants to talk to you about some of the assertions that Salmon has made in his CNL write up. Gaspar felt that specific gravity omissions in the write up should have been included and interpreted. Gaspar wants to talk to you about use of present testing methods and new techniques. I feel that it is too complicated for him to write up but you will understand his explanations. I feel it is so important that you have him discuss there matters with you.

I will send you his Email shortly..

Eric

In a message dated 9/27/2011 3:50:40 P.M. Central Daylight Time, PLMossman@aol.com writes:

Hello Eric:

In reply to your question about counterfeiting in silver, all the forgeries I've read about during the late 1600s and early 1700s were in pewter/lead. None in silver. Below is an excerpt from my chapter. Even a specific gravity of your coin would yield some information since a specific gravity in the 10.36 range [10.30-10.36] would indicate good silver no matter how the surface might have been contaminated with environmental crap. For the past two years, Robert Hoge has been going to check the sp. g. of the two Noe-13 coins at the ANS - I reminded him again yesterday. No matter what your Noe-12 ends out to be, genuine or forgery, there is certain proof that it was made and circulated contemporaneously with the Hull mint products.

Best regards,

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charges. His severe punishment, excessive under the law for a coin-clipping escapade, implied that it served as retribution for his probable involvement in the recent conflagration with its estimated £200,000 loss to the city. For the remainder of the century, five individuals were brought before Massachusetts courts charged with counterfeiting.

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hour's seat in the stocks. Fenton, a smithy, was caught in a repeat performance in Connecticut in 1699 – but since that province had no laws against the practice, he escaped punishment. The same year he had the distinction of being the first culprit to be caught with counterfeit Portuguese half-joes in his possession.

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Scott, *Counterfeiting*, p. 25. The reference to “half-joes” in 1699 is confusing since the Johannes series

was first minted in 1722.

Subj: **Re: More on Noe-12**
Date: 9/29/2011 2:09:43 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Hello Eric:

I would be pleased to arrange a talk with Peter Gaspar. My new number is 540-416-4281. Tell me when.

I feel that a properly done specific gravity is helpful - not that it can diagnose exactly - but it can rule things in or out. When dealing with an unknown silver coin, for example, a specific gravity of 10.36 can't tell you if it is sterling since an alloy mix of silver, tin and lead might fortuitously combine to equal that value. But if the answer is **not** 10.36, you know it is not sterling but not makes no further identification. In the case of Noe-12, the surface may be so contaminated that non-invasive techniques are frustrated but that won't alter specific gravity testing. I've personally seen the four Pine Tree examples that Noe examined plus one other Noe-29 that the Wilson Museum owns. These all have nice surfaces suggesting that yours was exposed to the elements and did not have a favorable location in the hoard. All the other Mass. silver looks good but these were selectively chosen by Dr. Stevens in 1841 as good specimens. Also I would not be surprised if they were brushed up a bit some 170 years ago!

Nonetheless, silver or not, Noe-12's age and provenance and history are confirmable.

Re: specific gravity, Skip Smith and I did all our testing with distilled water at room temperature. As a physics professor, he had access to his own analytical digital scale. We only went to two decimal places.

I've been trying to get Robert Hoge to do the same with the two ANS Noe-13s but no luck. This will help us see whether Salmon's Noe-13 is typical or an exception. Anyway its weight in the 45 grain range suggests the next century when the cut coins seemed to have been in vogue.

Best
Phil

106 Rutherford Lane
Stuarts Draft
VA 24477

Dear Phil:

I have some interesting news for you and want to talk to you as soon as possible. If you want me to call you please Email me your telephone number and new address. If you sent it to me before please excuse me as I have so many messages and data to file I cannot find things quickly. My number is as you know 314 727 0850.

Eric

Subj: **Thanks**
Date: 10/4/2011 1:29:48 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Hello Eric:

Peter and I had a great discussion yesterday afternoon. Of interest, I've read some comments posted online about Salmon's CNL paper which say that all he did was to examine the surface and not the whole coin. Of course, a specific gravity will tell a lot about the entire coin rather than just the surface.

I wrote to Salmon today and asked whether the people who did his analysis also did a specific gravity or not. Also I mentioned that I've been after Robert Hoge to do the specific gravities of the two ANS Noe-13s.

When I get your Noe-12 material, I'll send you my proposed presentation at C4 regarding your coin.

Hope all is well.

Best

Phil

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 6 2011

Dr. Philip Mossman
106 Rutherford Lane
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477-2963

Dear Phil:

Pursuant to our recent telephone discussion I am outlining thoughts to try to be of help for your coming presentation in Boston in November on the Castine Hoard and Noe 12. I also added a few other items so excuse the length.

I have fortunately just located the original envelope prepared by Burdette G. Johnson for my Noe 12 from the Castine Hoard. It was prepared in 1941 after he and I had purchased and received the American Colonial group from the E.H.R. Green Estate. It was almost always his practice to promptly prepare an envelope for each individual coin he handled with detailed Johnson's description, retail price and cost. To distinguish his owned pieces from the Green Estate pieces in which I had part ownership he used red ink from his typewriter ribbon instead of black. I was able to choose what I wanted and he would withdraw an equal value. Any other pieces would be sold for joint account and the invoice to a customer would show whether the envelope was red or black on his copy of the invoice. The envelopes were made of sulfur free paper and put together with flour and water paste.

On the Castine Noe 12 envelope (a copy in color enclosed) he describes the coin, puts a retail value of \$125.00 and a cost value written in his code by me of nkcb (\$40.00). Also I seem to have written on the envelope 4.01 grams, 62 ½ grains. It had inserts put in by me at a later date of a photo copy of the relevant part of Oct. 1863, p. 319 of Historical Magazine and other insertions including Jan. 1952 The Numismatist.

I telephoned Maine Historical Society in Portland about the Castine Hoard as to nondestructive testing of its coins. It gave me complex rules for such action. Peter Gaspar then found the website for me using the research term CASTINE. It had descriptions, dates and images. This was very helpful but some data needs correction.

Object: A00-53-05 is described as Pine Tree shilling but I feel it is Oak Tree Noe 9.

Object: A00-52-09 is a Bolivian 2 real and described as dated 1769 but it may be 1697.

(Expert needed)

Object: A00-52-02 is said to be also a Bolivian 2 real but date not given (need expert).

Dr. Philip Mossman

October 4, 2011

Page 2

The Massachusetts coins as described on page 16 of Noe's Pine Tree Coinage are there.

I have not notified Maine Historical Society of these possible changes.

I am enclosing a copper plated beautiful 100th birthday medal prepared for me by Stuart and Maureen Levine and hope you will have all your marbles when you reach that age.

I presume you will have talked to Peter Gaspar by the time you receive this.

I will send you the testing results of my Noe 12 when I receive them.

If anything is unclear in this letter, please advise me.

My continued appreciation of your amazing cooperation,

Eric P. Newman

c: Peter Gaspar

Subj: **For your approval or not**
 Date: 10/9/2011 5:18:20 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From:
 To:

Hi Eric:

I have composed this addendum for my Castine Hoard C4 presentation. **But it must have your complete approval. Edit wherever you wish.** I've not mentioned it to anyone else, even Lou Jordan. Counterfeit or not, it is part of the Massachusetts silver series. The excerpts from the catalogues and newspapers will appear as slides on Power Point.

Best,
 Phil

Of the estimated 2000 coins in the Castine deposit, only those few residing in the Maine Historical Society collection can be identified today. This census, which we have just seen, includes one of each major variety that Dr. Stevens bought when he examined the hoard in 1841. Other townsfolk bought a few examples which also ended up in the society's collection. Although it was said that Captain Grindle sold the rest of the deposit for the price of silver in Boston, we now know that many were bought by an early coin dealer, Mr. John Warren, and found their way into large collections. This was the beginning of a parallel paper trail that followed at least one Castine piece right up to the present day.

The man who found these coins, being poor, sent them to Boston for sale, and they were purchased by Mr. John Warren, 186 Tremont street, where they may be seen. A single glance will satisfy any one that they are genuine, and well worth of the attention of the curious. — *Boston Transcript*.

reprinted in *Pittsburgh Republican* July 3, 1841

The next commentary about Mr. Warren and the Castine coins was 19 years later in an article by M.A. Stickney [the onetime owner of the Brasher doubloon] ...

From the *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, vol 2 (1860) p. 235n

The paper trail resumes three years later in what may have been a notice to attract public attention ...

— Unique Pine Tree Shilling. — In a collection of coins recently belonging to Chas. Payson, Esq. of Portland, Maine, I find a very rare and probably unique specimen of the Pine Tree coinage. The piece is peculiar in several respects, but it differs from all others which I have ever met with in the legend, which in this reads *Masasthvsets* instead of Massachusetts, as in the usual type. The coin is from the celebrated deposit found at Carthage in 1848.

Historical Magazine [Boston] vol 8, #10, October 1863

And immediately afterwards,

From the *Woodward Sale*, October 1863, lot 2467

Price

ESTIMATED VALUE

\$100 2467. Pine Tree Shilling 1782. From the Carthage deposit. The reverse is inscribed "M. S. T. H. V. S. E. T. S." instead of "M. S. T. H. V. S. E. T. S." as in the usual type. The obverse is inscribed "M. S. T. H. V. S. E. T. S." instead of "M. S. T. H. V. S. E. T. S." as in the usual type. The coin is from the celebrated deposit found at Carthage in 1848.

6-K

100 2468. Pine Tree Shilling 1782 with all the legends reversed.

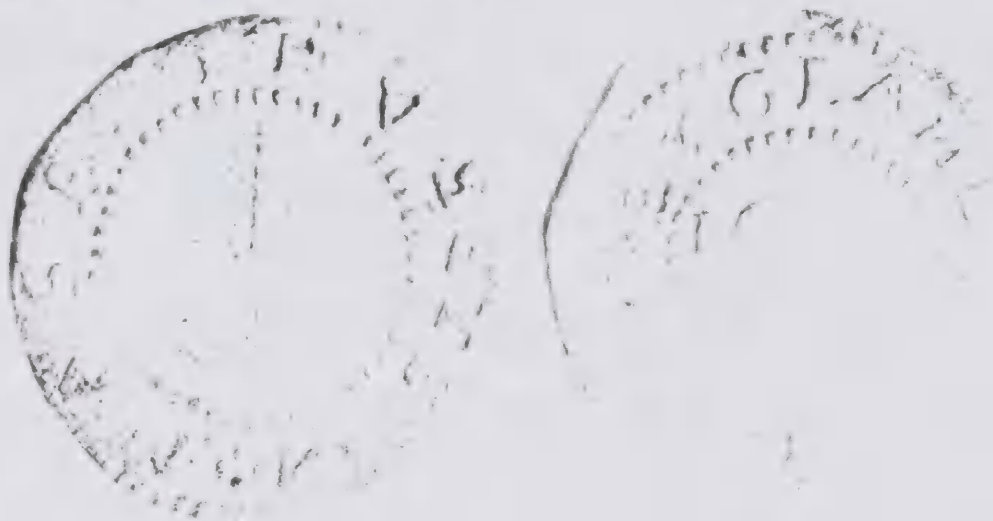
This coin was later listed as 6-K by Crosby in 1875 and then Noe-12 in Noe's 1942 monograph where its backwards N's and its unique MASASTHVSETS are noted. It was

purchased by an unidentified Mr. Murray who may have been acting as a buyer's agent. This coin is now listed in the new Salmon book as the 10-X counterfeit.

Parenthetically, another unidentified Castine coin also appeared as lot 2460.

2460, 2460. This coin was 1-52 from the Murray deposit.
very fine.

Then via the Colonel Green collection sold in 1941, 6-K, Noe-12, or Salmon 10-X, became the property of Eric P. Newman.



But the mystery is far from solved!

Based on an analysis of Castine's history, this well made die-struck coin would have arrived in Castine no later than the decade between 1690 and 1701 when fur trade between the Maine trading post and Boston was at its height. It could have been earlier in the 1680s since trade relations between the French and English did not stop just because their parent countries were at war! This places the coin at the time of, or shortly after, the Massachusetts Mint. In Kenneth Scott's documentation of counterfeiting of Massachusetts silver, the first incident in Boston was recorded in 1674, in New York in 1680, and Philadelphia in 1683. These were all presumably cast copies since the alloy was identified as pewter or as pewter and lead. The big question remains with Noe-12, why would anyone have gone to such work for ill-gotten gains to have struck such a good representation of Hull's work when clipping genuine coins would have been so much easier? Discrete clipping would have been the deception of choice until the 1690s when silver was so severely clipped that coins started to pass by weight.

As for Noe-12, its surface analysis reveals 12% silver, 51% copper, and the remainder composed of various elements metals commonly seen in the colonial period. Considering the coin's inhospitable environment from 1703 to 1841, a lot of surface leaching of elements is assumed, particularly a preferential loss of copper.

Thus in conclusion, we can say of the Massachusetts silver recovered in the Castine Hoard, its most famous survivor is a counterfeit, and, as a counterfeit, has the distinction of having the most complete paper trail of any piece of "Massachusetts silver" anywhere!

Subj: **More**
Date: 10/11/2011 10:59:06 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Dear Eric:

I'm waiting for your letter to arrive in today's mail. In the meantime, I've been doing a lot more thinking about Noe-12 which I'll share with you. You notice that I still call it Noe-12 and NOT Salmon 10-X! I'm leaning toward the belief that this was the trial strike of a coin in a base metal that was not put in production rather than a circulating counterfeit. I'll give you all my reasons after I read your latest letter.

AOL has been acting funny for the last two days - cutting in and out. So I'll try to communicate while it is on.

Best
Phil

PS - the article that I sent to Peter that I copied to you was in criticism of Salmon's CNL article. I don't know enough about it to make an intelligent comment.
P.

Subj: **more**
 Date: 10/12/2011 8:08:55 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From:
 To:

In a message dated 10/10/2011 4:43:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis@aol.com writes:

Dear Phil:

You were very kind to withhold the text of your proposed power point talk in Boston in November until I had the opportunity to review it. You certainly have put an enormous amount of work into it.

In view of the fact that you should receive in today's mail my most recent letter to you on the matter and should have had very recent telephone communication with Peter Gaspar you may wish to make additions before I comment.

I will make a few comments before I review your text.

I believe Chris Salmon in his book does not state that Noe 12 is a counterfeit but that its status should be further studied. Who is making the assertion that it is or may be counterfeit?

I presume that anyone who would go to all the trouble to copy carefully the five Ns with reverse diagonals would not misspell the name of Massachusetts. That misspelling is a possible basis for limiting the usage of a genuine die rather than making a pair of counterfeit dies for striking in some silver content planchets.

The feeling that no specific gravity tests of the overall coin are not mentioned is damaging to any opinion. I feel Gaspar made that clear in his conversation (s) with you. The fact that tests much more in depth can and should be made on some other coins and should be pointed out. The specific gravity and depth content tests have been made on Noe 12 by Gaspar might be mentioned with permission.

Please realize that I have a conflict of interest in any comments I make since I and my museum corporation were and are owners.

Until I hear further from you I do not plan to contact Chris Salmon or ANS or C4.

Dear Eric:

Thank you so much for your letter which arrived yesterday. The "Fugio" medal was wonderful. It was a great idea and so appropriate considering your contribution to that subject. I really appreciated it.

Something more dawned on me after receiving your email and having discussed the coin with Peter. From the very beginning I thought that Noe-12 was a Hull product and was so surprised when I spoke to Peter and he told me of its specific gravity and XRF results. In fact, I was terribly disappointed. But I shouldn't be too dismayed since I started thinking again and was particularly encouraged by something you mentioned in your email.

Noe-12 certainly has the fabric of a Massachusetts mint product. Reading Salmon's account on pages 19-21, he describes all the features it shares with other shillings. Salmon also quotes Tony Terranova who sums it up well: "Terranova observes that the coin has 'a feel, color, and edge,' as well as design attributes and quality of execution proper to a bona fide small planchet Pine Tree shilling. He feels strongly that, in hand, it gives the subjective impression of a genuine coin."

In regard to the spelling of Massachusetts, Hull used a contracted spelling of Massachusetts. In the 1629 charter, the name of the colony was variously listed as MASSACHVSETTS, MATTCHVSETTS and MASSATVSETTS. Hull abbreviated his legends to MASATHVSETS – not because it was a commonly accepted 1652 spelling, but because the shortened rendition would fit on the die. We also know that Hull employed any number of apprentices and I think it is very possible that Noe-12's MASASTHVSETS is a combination of Hull's contracted legend and the orthographic blunder of one of his many apprentices. Consequently this misspelling should not be an issue when one considers the coin's overall quality features.

In my chapter on Mass silver I wrote:

“At one time or another, as many as twelve varieties of Massachusetts silver with Noe designations have been thought to be either counterfeit or suspicious, but, it must be clarified that there has been far from unanimous agreement on all of these. Numismatists have drawn attention to inconsistencies in die cutting, such as backwards “Ns,” and different letter punches, as a possible indication of forgery. This assumption does not take into account that Hull and Sanderson documented at least eight other persons working at their mint during its span of operation as either apprentices or journeymen, including Sanderson's three sons. A range in die-cutting skills shared by mint personnel could account for such minor variances, particularly when a die was the sole work of only one competent journeyman.

Whoever made Noe-12 did a good job except for his dyslexic inclusion of the aberrant “S” in Massachusetts. The backward Ns seem to be a common characteristic and cannot be used to condemn this or any other coin. The die pair was obviously not accepted for a production run in sterling. Since there are so many positive features pointing to Hull's mint, what is to prevent Noe-12 from having been struck as a trial piece on a low grade silver/copper planchet? Why would Hull – the good Yankee that he was – waste good silver on a model coin he was going to reject? That would explain Peter's test results which additionally were hampered by the surface contamination from years of exposure in a salty environment.

Now, let's play the devil's advocate and argue that Noe-12 is a contemporaneous counterfeit. If a counterfeiter were going to copy a small planchet Pine Tree shilling, it would have been after 1675 when the style was introduced. First of all, there is proof of Noe-12's age. Based on an analysis of Castine's history, this well made die-struck coin would have arrived in Castine no later than the decade between 1690 and 1701 when fur trade between the Maine trading post and Boston was at its height. It could even have been earlier in the 1680s since trade relations between the French and English did not stop just because their parent countries were at war! This places the coin at the time of, or shortly after, the 1682 closure of the Massachusetts Mint. There is absolutely nothing suggest that Noe-12 was a later fabrication designed to invade the

numismatic market.

Of the known counterfeit Massachusetts silver documented by Kenneth Scott, the first incident in Boston was recorded in 1674, in New York in 1680, and Philadelphia in 1683. These were all presumably cast copies since the alloy was identified as pewter or as pewter and lead. The output of these counterfeits was sufficiently large to have attracted legal attention [unfortunately we know of no present day survivors.] Other than these cast counterfeits, discrete clipping would have been the practice of choice until the 1690s when silver coins, now so severely clipped, started to pass by weight.

Our mythical counterfeiter did quality work and obviously wasn't stupid. Why then would he have gone to the pains of engraving such creditable dies and strike only a single coin? Maybe others will show up in time even though the variety has been recognized since the 1860s. Also would a counterfeiter who had gone to all the trouble of making a pair of good dies strike his coins on light planchets of 62 grains since, by doing so, would call attention to his work? This would still be true if he had applied a silver wash [which has since been degraded].

Considering all these factors, I would propose that Noe-12 is a trial piece of an issue, struck on a basically copper planchet, that was withdrawn from production. Maybe a few others were struck. **But anyway, it is not a marketable coin so why not pawn it off on the Frenchman from Castine. He'll never know! Remember, Hull, too, was an active merchant in the fur trade.** [see Hermann Clarke, *John Hull*, p. 104.]

Regards
Phil

Mossman, *Money*, p. 88. Taxay, *Catalogue*, pp. 4-6; See Bowers, *Colonial and Early America Coins*, pp. 35, 36, 41, 46 and 49, and Salmon, *Silver Coins of Massachusetts*, pp. 15-21, for recent updates.

These apprenticeships are documented by Jordan in *Hull*, pp. 135-39. Among those who were trained by Hull was Jeremiah Dummer, who became a famous Boston silversmith and engraver of later currency plates in his own right.

Subj: **Re: Noe 12 metallic Content**
Date: 10/14/2011 1:55:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

In a message dated 10/14/2011 2:38:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
EricNumis@aol.com writes:

Please clarify my thinking .turmoil.

Dear Eric:

That is a question you would have to bounce off Peter. I can't answer it.
But what I have done is to send for Hull's personal account ledgers to see if he lists
any fur trade with the Castine region. Hull died in 1683 so it would have been
before that date.

Best,
Phil

Subj: **More on Noe-12**
 Date: 10/20/2011 11:03:55 A.M. Central Daylight Time
 From:
 To:

Dear Eric:

Time is growing short before the C4 convention and I would like to get my "Castine Revisited" presentation finished. I want to send them an advance CD to be sure there are no operation bugs in it.

I have a better idea about discussing the provenance of Noe-12 as the only known hoard coin outside of a museum with a documented paper trail. Because it is still under evaluation by Peter, **I should say nothing as to its analysis which is still pending.** I don't want to say something in public today that needs future modifying. **For me it is better to say nothing now.** I've not mentioned it to anyone, including Lou Jordan. I'm good at keeping confidences.

I have two ideas - [1] either mention only that the Boston coin dealer Mr. Warren bought the coins of numismatic interest from the hoard and sold Pine Tree shillings for \$1. I would not mention Noe-12 at all or [option #2] following the below text and pictures:

Let me know what you want and please offer any suggestions.

Of the estimated 2000 coins in the Castine deposit, only those few residing in the Maine Historical Society collection can be traced today. This census, which we have just seen, includes one of each major variety that Dr. Stevens bought when he examined the hoard in 1841. Other townsfolk bought a few examples which also ended up in the society's collection. Although it was said that Captain Grindle sold the rest of the deposit for the price of silver in Boston, we now know that many were bought by an early coin dealer, Mr. John Warren, and found their way into large collections. This was the first stop of a paper trail that followed at least one Castine piece right up to the present day.

The man who found these coins, being poor, sent them to Boston for sale, and they were purchased by Mr. John Warren, 186 Tremont street, where they may be seen. A single glance will satisfy any one that they are genuine, and well worth of the attention of the curious,—*Boston Transcript*.

reprinted in *Pittsburgh Republican* July 3, 1841

The next commentary about Mr. Warren and the Castine coins was 19 years later in an article by M.A. Stickney, the onetime owner of the Brasher doubloon and 1804 silver dollar. Here we learn that Mr. Warren had relocated to 293 Washington Street where he was selling Pine Tree shillings for \$1.00 each. After his death, his whole collection was sold to some unknown institution.

...

The paper trail resumes three years later in what may have been a notice to attract public attention ...

— *Unique Pine Tree Shilling*.—In a collection of coins recently belonging to Chas. Payson Esq. of Portland, Maine, I find a very rare and probably unique specimen of the Pine Tree shilling. The piece is peculiar in several respects, but a dollar from all others which I have ever come with in the legend, which on this reads *Massachusetts* instead of *Massachusetts*, as is the usual type. The coin is from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1834.

Historical Magazine [Boston] vol 8, #10, October 1863

And immediately afterwards, From the *Woodward Sale*, October 1863, lots 2460 and 2467

1100 2460. Pine Tree Shilling 1652 from the Castine deposit
very fine.

Price.

COLONIALS - One only.

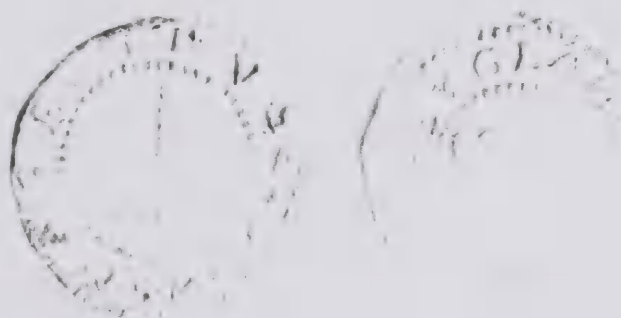
1100 2467. Pine Tree Shilling 1652. It is very similar to the
common half shilling to be found in the *Massachusetts*
sets. In the *New England* the *Year* of the
year is not recorded at Castine, the *Historical Magazine*
for the year and month.

6-K

1100 2468. Pine Tree Shilling 1652 with all the letters of the

This coin was later listed as 6-K by Crosby in 1875 where its backwards N's and its unique MASASTHVSETS are noted. It was purchased by an unidentified Mr. Murray who may have been acting as a buyer's agent. Parenthetically, another unidentified Castine coin also appeared as lot 2460.

Then via the Colonel Green collection sold in 1941, 6-K became the property of Eric P. Newman. It was later designated by Noe in 1942 as Noe-12 and most recently as Salmon 10-X. This die struck coin is still under examination.



Subj: **a brief note**
Date: 10/23/2011 3:16:26 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

Hello Eric:

I discovered something last evening that I had overlooked. In his book on coin hoards, (*Numismatic Notes and Monographs* #169) John Kleeberg mentioned in his section on the Castine Hoard about the provenance of Noe-12. He related the article in the *Historic Magazine* and how the Noe-12 was once in the Payson collection and now resides with you. I saw I "overlooked" it because I proofread the book for John and had forgotten about it.

Phil

Subj: **Re: Your Boston Presentation**
Date: 10/31/2011 2:48:49 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To:

In a message dated 10/30/2011 7:56:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
EricNumis@aol.com writes:

You asked me to approve your November comments even if they were limited to the past history of Noe 12. I certainly do.

There may be a lot of different opinions and positions at the meeting as to what Salmon says or what others say; You can participate or ask for further time to study. The group will not know what the Washington University team has determined. It is up to that team as to if or when their thinking is to be used. I do not think either you or I should inform the group of the Washington University research but could say that we believe other research is pending. Telephone me or Email me if anything is not clear enough. Eric

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for your message. Good - I'm glad you approve of my discussing only the historic aspects of the hoard and its current known survivors. I'll leave it at that.

The more I think about it, Noe-12 has the most complete paper trail of any piece of Mass silver. Are you aware of any other pieces that go back that far? Also I found that John Hull was a fur dealer. I borrowed copies of his ledger books but could find no reference to the Pentagoët trading post.

Peter's letter just arrived in today's [Monday] mail. I was particularly impressed with his comment "Extensive internal corrosion would lower the specific gravity and would likely lead to preferential loss of copper from a silver-copper alloy. If the coin originally had the specified weight of 72 grains, the loss of 9.6 grains would have led to the present weight, and the original specific gravity would have been 10.45."

Those two factors of specific gravity and weight loss seem right on the money [excuse the terrible pun] for a normal sterling-grade coin that had undergone environmental contamination and degradation from sitting exposed on the river bank for those 140 years.

Since I have less than two weeks before the Boston meeting, I'll say [and only if asked] that Noe-12 is still under investigation. Peter's result are his business and are not mine to reveal. After all, I'm just talking about the history of the Castine Hoard and not the physical-chemical properties of Noe-12. I have no idea what Chris Salmon is going to discuss. I'm the first speaker, then Robert Hoge, and lastly Salmon. By the way, still not a word from Hoge.

I have not mentioned this at all to Lou Jordan - he seems to know that examination at WUSL was in progress. I guess he knew because he was researching the old newspaper articles.

Between us - I still use the Noe designations since I guess they have become part of my vocabulary. I wonder if the new Salmon ones will catch on. Although I love the romance, history, and economic aspects of Mass silver, I don't consider myself a Mass silver collector with only have three shillings! [Oak tree N-5, Pine tree N-1 and N-29.]

I'll keep you posted.

Best

Phil

Subj: **Opinion on metal content of Massachusetts silver coins.**
Date: 11/1/2011 12:03:26 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: *Eric Numis*
To: *Peter Gaspar*

Dear Peter:

Thank you for the copy of the memo I gave you on March 22, 2011 listing the five pieces of Mass silver coins I turned over to you for testing by your improved methods. As to my mistake in the variety of the overweight Noe 1 Pine Tree shilling) it was caused by my failure to lift my pen off the paper when moving from the end of "Noe" before writing "1".. My hand writing control due to my age is not very good and it is difficult for me to know when I touch the paper with the pen I Write with..

The only persons who have a copy of your written study other than you and your associates are Mossman and myself. The copies held by those named two have been either corrected or notified to be corrected. Neither Mossman nor I have given copies of any part to anyone or intend to do so in uncorrected or uncorrected form until getting your clearance except that I intend to send only the data related to the Bullova piece to her in due course.

As you may know the talk Mossman is going to give in Boston in about a week is only going to be on the history of the Castine piece with no comment on its genuineness, At that event what Salmon may say or comment about the matter or other related matters or what others may say we are presently unaware of.

I hope your trip to Tennessee is interesting and am sorry I was unable to borrow a coin at this time to be studied.

Eric

THE GLOUCESTER ADVERTISER.

GLOUCESTER:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1841.

ANCIENT COINS.

It may be recollected that a few months since, a large quantity of silver coin was dug out of the earth, "within the limits of the ancient town of Penobscot," in the State of Maine. A gentleman belonging to Castine, who succeeded in procuring a specimen of all these coins, sixe one, has gratified his friends in Gloucester by sending them on for their examination, together with a very full and interesting description thereof, which we publish below. These coins are now in our possession, and we invite the curious in such matters to call at our office and examine them. The account of them, by their owner, follows:

"As the examination of the Coins has excited some curiosity and interest in the mind of our friend Mr. N——, I will spend a few moments in relating all that I know concerning them for his

from p. 6 col. 1
↓
from *Princess*, by the name of *Bigicabigazanda*, daughter of *Michobawando*—with the whole of the *Penobscot* region for her dowry. (She would be regarded in these degenerate days a squaw.) Possessing in an eminent degree that knowledge of the character, and the art of adaptation to the manners and customs of the Indians, for which his countrymen, while on this continent, have ever been noted, *Castine* obtained over them an unbounded influence. This influence, urged probably by his national feelings, he used so much to the annoyance of the English, that after one or two unsuccessful attempts, the colonial authorities of Massachusetts sent down a force from Boston, destroyed his fort and buildings, and finally expelled him from the country. To those acquainted with the localities it does not seem improbable that he might in his retreat, have gone up the *Biguaduce* river—trodden this very path—from thence to *Nashkeag* and *Mount Desert*, and thence to *Nova Scotia*. He succeeded in getting to France and died there. It was about 50 years after these events before any permanent settlement was effected here by the whites. It is very likely more treasure may be found and a diligent search is about to be made for it.

Mr. Nash

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some curiosity and interest in the mind of our friend Mr. N——, I will spend a few moments in relating all that I know concerning them for his and your information. I do not wonder that a lover of antiquarian research should find in them a rich fund of entertainment, for they are, truly, calculated to awaken historic recollections of the deepest interest.

They were found within the limits of the ancient town of Penobscot, on the point at Johnson's Narrows—the second Narrows, so called, in the river Biguaduce, round which point its deep waters, at certain periods of the tide, rush with fearful rapidity. The point itself I have always admired, unrivalled in Maine for its beautiful situation and romantic scenery. It has acquired at this time additional interest from the discovery, by its fortunate owner, of this long lost treasure. He is a very worthy and industrious man, now a farmer, but was formerly a coaster for many years. The money was found directly in a path which leads across the point, and has been used as such ever since the country was settled, and, as appears to me, must have been from the peculiar situation of the shore and landing, an Indian path from time immemorial. It is wonderful that the money was never

It is very likely more treasure may be found and a diligent search is about to be made for it.

I first started the idea of old Cistino's agency in the matter, and I have seen nothing to discredit that opinion. I stated that there was no English coin found, but there was one and only one—an *old English shilling* of the time of one of the Charles's. There are two of the Dollar pieces that I don't exactly know of what country they are. One is dated 1611, the other 1682. If any one can tell, let me know. The *old shilling* piece you will see is among them I have sent. There is but one coin of which I have not a specimen—and that is a Portuguese quarter of a dollar, which the old man don't choose to part with. There were plenty of pine tree shillings and sixpences found among them—as many as three hundred in number—but they are scattered about every where. Next Spring he intends to plant the ground with potatoes, and will find, no doubt, a few more. You would laugh to see how all the people up that shore are digging—and there are some here silly enough too—directed by *mineral rods*.

end of article

FROM WASHINGTON.

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~~marial~~ It is wonderful that the money was never discovered before, as none of it was found deeper than one foot below the surface, and has been lying there, without doubt, 150 years. The spot is about 5 rods from the landing—very rocky, and covered with the second growth of wood, of considerable size. The original growth was cut about 60 years since. The owner, while employed in hauling wood to the shore, threw out from the soil a piece of money, which, on examination, he found to his surprise and even terror to be nearly 200 years old, with a stamp and impression as distinct and perfect as though just issued from the mint.—It was a Crown of the early part of the reign of Louis 14th. By searching a little he found several of those curious, irregular shaped Spanish Dollars, of which I sent you a specimen. This was very near a large rock, on the other side of which grew a bunch of alder bushes. On tearing these up by the roots and digging round the rock, he came at last to the “deposits”—the “responsibility” of removing which he assumed without scruple.
The greatest part of the money was in this spot, but many pieces were afterwards found, scattered to the distance of ten or twelve feet from the rock.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Express]

Washington, Sept. 4.

The Land Bill was signed to-day, and “in spite of lamentations here and elsewhere,” is a law of the land. Mr. Calhoun set up a howl when the Private Secretary of the President announced the signature of the bill—and through the day, in Congress and out, there has been a continued howl over the approval of this bill. Mr. Walker, of Miss., while the Message of approval was in the capitol, was indulging in the bright vision of three vetoes in three weeks. A moment or two, and one of his fondest hopes was destroyed. Presidential stock, therefore, is not so high to day as it has been with the opposition.

In regard to Mr. Everett, there are pretty good reasons for believing in his confirmation. The most unjust opposition to him is giving way gradually, but certainly, I think.

There is some hope, also, of keeping the Cabinet where they are, and a certainty that if the second Bank Bill is vetoed, the reasons will be given in much better temper and spirit than those given in the first Message of the President.

Monday, Sept 6.

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to the distance of ten or twelve feet from the rock. The declivity is considerable, and as the smallest coins were found farthest off it would seem to indicate that they were washed away by a torrent of water. No envelope, vessel, or any thing indicating one has been found. One or two of the pieces were found on the surface of the rock, which was, at that time, about a foot out of the ground, nearly embedded in the moss growing on it.

In company with some friends I visited the spot some time after the first discovery. Several men and boys in the presence of the owner were digging the ground near the rock. Some of the specimens I have sent to you were dug, at that time, in my presence. The exact sum obtained, the owner, for reasons of his own, don't mention. About 500 dollars I think at least. The Coins are, principally, French crowns and parts—all of them of the reign of Louis 14th, commencing in the early part of it and continuing through nearly the remainder of the 17th century. His reign was a long one, from about 1640 to 1715. They are executed far better than any I have seen of the last century. The next largest proportion consists of those curious, antique Spanish dollars—hammered out of various shapes—nothing distant from the

given in the first Message of the President.

Monday, Sept 6.

The city has been full of rumors since Saturday evening, in reference to troubles between this country and England, originating in the exploration and survey on the North Eastern Boundary. As I can trace them to no responsible source, and as they carry upon the face of them much exaggeration, I will not repeat them. It is but proper to add, however, that the questions upon which we are at issue with England are regarded as placing the condition of the country in a most critical position. John Quincy Adams, in his brief speech yesterday, which has been the subject of comment ever since, regarded the country in the wrong in respect to the M. Leod affair, and as occupying a position in which neither the law of nations or the justice of the case would defend us. He believed any civilized power with all the facts before them, would place us in the wrong. The venerable Ex-President also made a fine eulogy upon Mr. Webster and his intelligent administration of the Department of State. He spoke also of the policy of the Government as being pacific, and prayed earnestly that the time of war was afar off.

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~~century. The most interesting of the collection consists in~~
these curious, antique Spanish dollars—hammered
out—of various shapes—perhaps direct from the
rich mines of Potosi, and coined long before the
coining press, or the process of milling was known.
The date of these is not easily ascertained, but
are, no doubt, of the 16th century. Quite a large
sum is made up of the old Bay State pine tree shil-
lings and sixpences, rudely executed, and all of
the year 1652. There are a few Dutch or Danish
rix dollars, one of which is of an earlier date than
→ the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and one
or two Portuguese pieces. I believe there is no
old English coin of any description. None of them
that I have seen, and I have examined several hun-
dred, is of a date so late as 1760.

~~Many conjectures and opinions have been star-
ted to account for their deposition—some of them
absurd and all common-place enough to destroy
the romantic associations that it seems to me they
are calculated to awaken. From the great propor-
tion of French coins—from the time when the lat-
est date of them terminates, and from some tradi-
tionary stories, pointing to islands in the river, di-
rectly opposite the spot, and about half a mile dis-
tant—I would venture to conjecture that they are~~

*be careful of
part repeated*

most likely that the time of war was at hand.

[Correspondence of the Boston Coarner]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5, 1841.

It is now the general, and so far as I have heard,
the universal opinion, that the Bank Bill will be
returned to the House, where it originated, with
the reasons of the President for not signing it.—
Whether the veto will come early or late in the
week is uncertain, but I apprehend the President
will not keep it long, because Congress is anxious
to adjourn. What will be its immediate effect
here is quite uncertain. Some are of opinion that
all the members of the cabinet will resign their
places immediately. Others think that a part of
them will tender their resignations, while others
suppose that they will all remain. So you see we
are all in a fog on the subject. But a few days
will clear up the mist and we shall be able to see
land again. Under these circumstances it is idle
to conjecture. The committee of the Whig party,
appointed to consider what is to be done, if any-
thing, on this emergency, have not given out any
intimations of their plan, nor have they probably
decided. Rumor, however, has it, that an Address,
in the nature of a Manifesto, will be proposed for

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the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and one or two Portuguese pieces. I believe there is no old English coin of any description. None of them that I have seen, and I have examined several hundred, is of a date so late as 1760.

Many conjectures and opinions have been started to account for their deposition—some of them absurd and all common-place enough to destroy the romantic associations that it seems to me they are calculated to awaken. From the great proportion of French coins—from the time when the latest date of them terminates, and from some traditional stories, pointing to islands in the river, directly opposite the spot, and about half a mile distant—I would venture to conjecture that they are in some way connected with the residence here of old Baron Castine. The conduct and character of this man has ever been enveloped in mystery. Of a noble and wealthy family in France—of high military rank—he left all and came to reside on this peninsula, where he erected a fort, the remains of which are yet visible, but which the plough will very soon obliterate, and where relics of his abode are occasionally found. He married here an In-

to adjourn. What will be its immediate effect here is quite uncertain. Some are of opinion that all the members of the cabinet will resign their places immediately. Others think that a part of them will tender their resignations, while others suppose that they will all remain. So you see we are all in a fog on the subject. But a few days will clear up the mist and we shall be able to see land again. Under these circumstances it is idle to conjecture. The committee of the Whig party, appointed to consider what is to be done, if any thing, on this emergency, have not given out any intimations of their plan, nor have they probably decided. Rumor, however, has it, that an Address, in the nature of a Manifesto, will be proposed for the signatures of members of the Whig party of both Houses. It is to be hoped that moderate counsels will prevail. My own opinion is that it would be best to let the whole matter rest till the next session of Congress, when a plan of a bank may probably be devised, which will comprehend the support of all branches of the government.—Should an intemperate manifesto be put forth, it would not be likely to be signed by all the Whig

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THE CASTINE COINS.

There has been in most of the papers an account of the discovery of a deposite of ancient coins in the neighborhood of Castine, in the State of Maine. A friend has sent us a specimen of these treasures to be deposited with the collections of the Antiquarian Society. It is a French coin of silver, about the size and weight of a fifty cent piece, bearing the head of Louis 14th on one side, and the crown of France on the other, and has the date of 1619. The inscriptions are as clear as when they were stamped, being but little worn, or obscured by rust. They are LVD·XIII·D·G·FR·ET·NAV·REX & SIT·NOMEN·DOMINI·D·BENEDICTVM. The following is from the letter enclosing the coin. "While at Castine, a few days since, I learned that some silver coin had been found near that place—visited the spot—found some men engaged in digging, and saw them dig several pieces. About \$500 in value has been found, mostly lying upon a rock, but scattering pieces were found in the soil for 20 or 30 feet from the rock. The discoverer of the coin is a Capt. Grindle, who owns the land. The place is called Johnson's Point, on the Bagaduce river. The coins are of different denominations, varying in date from 1641 to 1692, many of them looking quite new. It is supposed by many that the coin was deposited by Baron Castine, or some of his fol-

~~FIRE AND INCENDIARISM IN MILLBURY. A two story brick building occupied by Mr. Wm. Hudson, tailor, and owned by Mr. Simon Farnsworth, was entirely consumed by fire last week. The building was insured at Springfield for \$2,000. The Millbury Bank, adjacent to the fire, is said to have been saved by the exertions of the ladies. There is reason to suppose that this fire was the work of an incendiary, from the fact that on Sunday morning about 11 o'clock, after the people had assembled at meeting, the daring and atrocious act was committed of setting fire to the barn of Mr. Samuel D. Torrey of that place. A man was seen, by several persons, coming from the barn immediately before the fire was discovered. The Selectmen have offered a reward of \$300 for his apprehension and conviction. A minute description of his person is given in handbills, and he has been hotly pursued through the woods toward Auburn. It seems impossible that he should escape.~~

~~P. S. We are informed that the incendiary is supposed by some to be an insane person who is known to have been in the neighborhood, and whose description corresponds to that given in the handbill.~~

~~The Thunder showers of Sunday were productive of a good deal of injury in this neighborhood, from the lightning. We have heard of many places where buildings were struck and in one instance distinctly~~

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of the coin is a Capt. Grindle, who owns the land. The place is called Johnson's Point, on the Bagaduce river. The coins are of different denominations, varying in date from 1641 to 1692, many of them looking quite new. It is supposed by many that the coin was deposited by Baron Castine, or some of his followers, at the time his fort and residence at Castine were destroyed and he driven away by the English, which was about 1697 or 1698. The rock upon which the coin was deposited was covered with soil, and a clump of alders growing thereon."

Some of the statements we have seen, mention that a great part of the money is of the date of 1652, being the old Massachusetts pine-tree currency. These pieces are becoming rare at this day, although they are occasionally to be met with. They always bear the date of 1652, for this reason. After the people of this colony had set up a mint, and begun their coinage, the King interfered and forbade any farther issues. This command was evaded by dating all pieces, subsequently struck, to correspond with those in circulation previous to the order.

Supposing that some notice of Baron Castine may be of interest in this connection, we subjoin a brief abstract of his history.

Mons. VINCENT DE ST. CASTINE, was born at Oleron, on the borders of the Pyrenes, in France. His family was noble, his hereditary title being that

scription corresponds to that given in the handbill.

The Thunder showers of Sunday were productive of a good deal of injury in this neighborhood, from the lightning. We have heard of many places where buildings were struck and in one instance distinctly saw the light of a burning barn during the shower. A barn in Hopkinton and another in Milford we are informed, were burnt. In Brookfield a house was struck, and a man injured; and two yoke of oxen were killed in Holden, one pair belonging to Col. Stratton and the other to Daniel Knowlton, standing under a tree on different sides of a wall.

We stated in our last paper, that the body found near Hartford, and supposed to be that of Thompson, was not identified by the father. The Hampshire Gazette has the following account, from which it appears that some uncertainty still rests upon the matter.

The father of the boy was sent for, but we understand that he was not able to identify the body as that of his son, nor was he able to say that it was not. The body was very much decayed. It had on a pair of satinet pantaloons, similar to those worn by the missing boy, except that they were darker, as the father thought. A key was found in his vest pocket, which corresponded with one which the Thompson boy had, or might have had about him. Mr. Thompson took it home to see if it could be identified. If this body is not that of young Thompson, we do not learn that it is known whose it is.

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His family was noble, his hereditary title being that of Count or Baron. He had good abilities and was well educated, especially in military arts. He was at first a Col. of the King's body guards. He was transferred from thence to the command of a regiment called the "Carignan Salieres," and about 1665 was sent with his troops to Quebec. At the close of the war his regiment was disbanded, and himself discharged from the King's service. Taking umbrage at this, he, as La Hontan describes it, "threw himself upon the savages." He settled upon the peninsula where D'Aulney had resided, and commenced a trading establishment. He was a devout Catholic and had several Jesuit missionaries with him. Having learned to speak the language of the natives he taught them the use of the gun, and some arts of war, and gained a complete ascendancy over them, they looking upon him as a God rather than man. He married six wives, daughters of the chiefs, and lived with them all by turns. He was thirty years in the country, and had several daughters and one son, Castine the younger, who became chief of the tribe, and was a man of distinction and excellent character. He conformed, in all respects, to the manners and customs of the Indians, but married his daughters to Frenchmen, with liberal portions, the property amassed by him being estimated at three hundred thousand crowns.

learn that it is known whose it is.

The Concert, on Monday evening, is said to have been well attended. The performances are spoken of as being exceedingly entertaining.

POST OFFICE REMOVALS.

The reasons for the changes of Post Masters in Charlton and Millville, have already been given, and the action of the Department shown to have been desired by citizens of both parties.

In Barre, Nahum F. Bryant, Esq. has been appointed, in place of Walter A. Bryant. Some two or three years ago, this office was taken, without any known reason except difference in political opinion, from the late Mr. Charles Lee, and bestowed upon the last incumbent. The change now made is, therefore, to all practical purposes, a restoration.

Hon. Samuel Wood, of Grafton, formerly Post Master, was removed for causes like those which operated in the preceding case, and his re-appointment, now made, is an act of retributive justice. It is highly acceptable to the people of that town.

A similar case has transpired in Northborough. Cyrus Gale, Esq., a faithful and popular Post Master, was removed under the late regime. The office is now restored to the hands of one in whom the people have confidence.

In Athol, we are informed, that Isaac Stevens, Esq. has been appointed, *vice* Doct. Williams; it is said, on authority which is deemed amply sufficient, that this change was called for by the justice and merits of the case, and most palpably by the rule laid down by the Government to control them in all instances—to frown on partizan officers.

The Office in Royalston has been taken from Mr. Robert Wood and placed in the hands of Mr. Charles A. Bullock. Mr. Wood was appointed more than a year since, after an unjust and uncalled for removal of an acceptable Post Master. The office is

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The peninsula, now Castine, has connected with it many associations of historical interest. It originally bore the name of a resident Frenchman called "Major Bigoyduce," (from whom the river "Bagaduce" probably derives its name,) and contains about 2,600 acres. The trading-house of the Plymouth colony was established there in 1626. There were the head quarters and fort of D'Aulney from 1640 to 1648. Baron Castine resided there for thirty years; and there the British had a garrison, in the war of the revolution, from 1779 to 1783.

The change of the name of this peninsula from Penobscot to Castine, in memory of the old Baron, was objected to by many, on the ground that Castine was ever a foe to the English, and the cause of much suffering and loss of life to the infant colonies. The arms and ammunition furnished by him to the natives, and the military arts he taught them, greatly increased their capacity to do injury, which was severely felt in the general outbreak of hostilities at the time of Philip's war in 1675, and at subsequent periods. A reward was for a long time offered for the capture of Castine or any of his family, and he was universally detested as well as feared by the English. His descendants and a portion of their tribe ultimately removed to Canada and united with the St. Francois Indians.

called for removal of an acceptable Post Master. The office is now substantially restored.

It will be seen, that in almost every instance, thus far, a change has been, in substance, a restoration. We have no doubt that similar or equal justification may be found for every case within the County. In due season we will investigate the matter, and the result shall discomfit the opposition.

On the subject of Post Office removals, we regret, deeply and keenly, that the Department is necessitated to lay its hands upon public officers; but the wrongs of the proscribed, and public retributive justice, require that such cases as have now been instanced, should be treated in the manner above indicated.

We have been informed by a member of Congress, that about one-quarter of the Post Offices within his own District, would be subjects of change, and that in about every instance the new appointment would be a *restoration*—while in many cases, where grossly unjust removals had been made by Mr. Van Buren, the present administration would, in unmerited generosity, tolerate the removal and not restore. It is so all over the country. A ruthless proscription has for ten years swept over us, and now that a portion only of the offices should be restored, is made the subject of hypocritical lamentation on the part of those who but recently swelled the note of rejoicing over a fallen and injured foe. Mr. Granger is above-board in all his official acts. His integrity is unimpeachable. His honor is high. His course is fair, equal, and just. †

PIC NIC IN THE GROVE.

If we mistake not, Worcester possesses some approved claim to distinction, for the beautiful illustration of good taste in the preparation of rural festivities and pastimes. It is not out of memory, that on several former occasions, the representatives of both sexes have met, in goodly number, upon some agreeable afternoon when the sky was soft and the sunset beautiful, in the delightful grove on Mr. Lincoln's premises, to bestow some

The Hog Cabin
New York City
Horace Greeley

July 3, 1841 Vol 1 #31

That doth the swiftest run,
Nor the battel to the peopel
That has the longest gun

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MONEY-DIGGING.—A farmer in the vicinity of Castine, in Maine, the present season, preparing his land for tillage, had occasion to excavate the top of a ledge, and, on removing the earth, found lying loose on the top of the rock a quantity of ancient coin of pure silver. Many of these coins are a curiosity, being of all possible shapes and forms. It would seem they were cut down to an exact weight. They all have upon them a coinage, but most of them very uncouth and without date, and clearly show the great improvements made since the days of our fathers in the coinage of money. The man who found these coins, being poor, sent them to Boston for sale and they were purchased by Mr. John Warren, No. 186 Tremont street, where they may be seen. A single glance will satisfy any one that they are genuine, and well worthy the attention of the curious. [Boston Transcript.

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COINS FOUND AT CASTINE. The Belfast Signal gives the following description of a large quantity of old coins lately found at Castine, in Maine:

Money Digging. A farmer in the vicinity of Castine, in Maine, the present season, preparing his land for tillage, had occasion to excavate the top of a ledge, and on removing the earth, found lying loose, on the top of a rock a quantity of ancient coin of pure silver. Many of these coins are a curiosity, being of all possible shapes and forms. It would seem they were cut down to an exact weight. They all have upon them a coinage, but most of them very uncouth and without date, and clearly show the great improvements made since the days of our fathers in the coinage of money.—*Exchange Paper.*

We have seen and examined pieces of the above described coin. The dollar pieces seem to have been cut from a bar, struck once or twice with a hammer, and then stamped with a singular looking die, resembling Chinese characters. A great number of *pine tree shillings* were found, very ancient in their appearance, upon one side bearing a figure of the pine tree, upon the other the date, 1652, and *MASATHVSETS*, for Massachusetts. European coin was found from two to three hundred years of age. We understand there has been about six hundred dollars found. When put there, and by whom, is a mystery not very easily explained.

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Worcester, June 30, 184

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Worcester, June 16, 1841

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Worcester, Jun 16, 1841

Darby; quite sudden and unexpected; preparing for it; we wait only for a wind.

11th—Went to Cambridge to get my diploma; as I came out of Cambridge heard of the glorious news of the Surrender of Quebec. I brought it first to Salem. *Great Rejoicing.*

15—News of the peace in Europe.

19th—Fine, fair weather. Wind N. W. Sailed from Salem. May I be in the care of God throughout this voyage. (The remainder of the journal narrates the occurrences on the voyage to Gibraltar.)

NOTES ON AMERICAN CURRENCY—No. 6.

BY M. A. STICKNEY.

In 1840, a farmer, Capt. Stephen Grindle, in the vicinity of Castine, Maine, had occasion to excavate the top of a ledge, and on removing the earth,* found lying on the top of the rock, a quantity of ancient coin, of pure silver, amounting to about \$600.

They consisted of a large amount of Spanish Cobb money, and a great number of Pine-tree shillings, with coins of France, Spain, and other countries,† in fine order, and many of

* An article on the discovery of the coins found at Castine, was published in the Boston Daily Advertiser, July 17, 1841, taken from the Belfast Signal. Also, a more extended account in the Maine Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. 6, page 105. By Joseph Williamson, Esq.

† Most of these coins, valuable to collectors, found at Castine, were purchased by John Warren, dealer in marine shells, minerals, paintings, engravings, gems, coins, and other articles of antiquity. He was an Englishman, at one time a wealthy brewer, and kept his carriage, but becoming reduced in property, came to Boston with a small stock of coins, shells, &c. He established himself on Tremont Street, in an old building, afterwards removed, on the erection of the Museum. He was there in 1840,—I cannot tell how much sooner,—and it is likely was the first dealer in old coins in Boston, and perhaps in the U. S. He removed from Tremont Street to 293 Washington Street, up-stairs, where he continued till his death which happened a few years

them of beautiful workmanship. They were supposed to have been buried by Baron de St. Castin.

The earliest coin was one of John IV., King of Portugal, 1630–36, and it is said none after 1688; most of them were of a date long previous to that period. This large parcel of coins showed the specie circulation here before 1688, and the proportions of each country. It appears from Mr. Williamson's account of the old coins, found at Castine, that there was but one coin of England found in the collection. The reason is clear, the exportation of the coins of England being strictly forbidden by Acts of Parliament. The early settlers of her American Colonies must, in consequence, have come without them, and probably with very little of that of any other nation.

Wampum, and other representations of specie, were used as currency. The furs, and other commodities, sent by the first settlers to England, brought no return of specie, the balance of trade being always against them. The little specie they obtained from other countries, was also continually leaving them for England.

It was to stop, and retain it in this country, that the Massachusetts Mint was established, in 1652. It was different with the exportation of our fish to Spain, a considerable portion of the returns being specie. The coins of Holland were early introduced by our trade with the Dutch settlement at New York.

The coins of France, from almost the first settlement of New England, were current, being most of them introduced by an illicit trade carried on with her Colonies. From the parcel of coins found at Castine, I obtained at the time, many fine specimens of France, Spain, and the Pine-tree money, and one of them,

since, when his whole collection was sold, at private sale, to some Institution, I believe in Connecticut. (His price for the Pine-tree shilling was \$1.) Most of the collectors in this vicinity have more or less of them in their collections.

Historical Collections of
The Essex Institute Vol 2 (1860) p. 253

a complete coin
? presentation piece

which I have always considered the most valuable (and perhaps unique,) in my collection, a piece of eight, coined at the mint of Potosi. 1652. It will be seen from the description I shall give of it, that the second coinage of the Massachusetts money, as regards the beaded circles, enclosing the legend and device, and the Anno before the date, are nearly the same as on the New England coins, showing that it might have been, in those respects, a pattern for their coins. I do not know of the Anno being placed before the date on any other coins. It is also a very interesting coin in another respect, being stamped with N. E., showing it to be one of the last issue of the silver currency of Massachusetts, ordered to be issued by the Court, Oct. 8, 1672:

"Whereas peeces of eight are of more value to carry out of the country then they will yield to mint into our coyne, by reason whereof peeces of eight which might else come to coyn-ing are carried out of the country, it is therefore ordered by this Court & the authority thereof, that all peeces of eight that are full weight and good siluer, that is, six shillings of New England money, of Mexico, sevil and pillar and so all lesser peeces of each sort, shall pass in this jurisdiction as current as our own money peeces of eight, at six shillings a peece, & all lesser peeces proportionably thereunto, provided that all such peeces that shall passe in this jurisdiction have a stampe affix't vpon them, wch shall be N. E., to euidence that they are of right allay & due weight, as an addition to the sayd lawe, be it ordered and enacted by this Court & the authority thereof, that peeces of eight vnder the weight of six shillings shall likewise be passable for so much of New England money as they shall weigh, and that it be impressed vpon the stampe how much each peece doth weigh in legible figures wth the other letters on ye same, & of the same alloy."

The coin in my possession, weighs 17 pennyweights, the weight required, and is in a fine state of preservation, having the appearance of being coined by powerful machinery.

This Piastre of eight Reals, Plate Currency, (called on that account a piece of eight,) has on its obverse, near its edge, a beaded circle, to prevent clipping, the legend, "PHILIPVS III. D. G. HISPANIARVM REX, -|-". In its field a shield surmounted by a regal coronet, first and third quarters, castles, the Arms of Castile, second and fourth, Lions, the Arms of Leon, in a bend at the base of the shield, a Pomegranate, the Arms of Granada; on the left the Arabic numeral 8, its value, and on the right of the shield, 52, an abbreviation of its date. There are other marks, which I am not able to explain. On the first quarter of the shield appears the stamp N. E., similar to that on the first coinage of the N. E. money, a beaded circle encloses the field of the coin; reverse, the beaded circles, the same as on the obverse, legend, E. L. PERV. -|- POTOSI, ANNO, 1652. In the field, two upright pillars, with coronets, instead of capitols, and above them a regal coronet; at their base flows a representation of the Mediterranean Sea, and across the coin the inscription, "PLVS VLTRA," "more beyond." The pillars are supposed to represent the Pillars of Hercules. The Arabic numeral 8, between the coronets, its value, IIII, on the right of the shield, the reigning king, and other marks not easy to explain. This coin shows, that, different from what all other writers I have seen have stated,† that the shield was actually put on part of the coins struck by Spain, in her South American Colonies.

† The Rev. Edward Clarke, in letters on the Spanish nation, written at Madrid, 1760-61, page 273, says: "In regard to their silver specie, in the first place observe that it has no impress of any royal head; that whenever it has a shield or coat of arms on it, it is coined in Old Spain, if it be struck before the year 1733."

Type A obverse
Morgan p. 303

408 Jan 2

WILSON MUSEUM BULLETIN

Spring 2003

Vol. 4. No. 24

CASTINE; AND THE OLD COINS FOUND THERE. #1

By Joseph Williamson

First printed for the Maine Historical Society, 1859.

One of the earliest settled localities in Maine, as well as one of the most distinguished in our history, is the peninsula of Matchebiguatus, or Major Biguyduce, called by contraction Bagaduce, on which stands the village of Castine.

The origin and signification of this term have never been satisfactorily explained. Palfrey's History of New England intimates that "Point Bagaduce" was a name used as early as 1642, but I can find no authority for such a statement. An approximation to it appears in a deed dated August, 1644, from Gov. Winslow to John Winthrop and others, cited in a note to Winthrop's Journal, vol. 1, page 220, (Savage's edition), where the eastern possessions of the Plymouth Company are referred to, as located "at Matche-big-uatus, in Penobscot." No such name is contained in any of the English or French documents relating to the Castin family. In 1760, the infant settlement of the present town of Castine was known as "Baggadoose." During the Revolution, it was called "Maja Bagaduce," and "MajeBigaduce," more frequently the latter. Gov. Sullivan, in his History of Maine, repeatedly mentions "Bagaduce Point," and "Bagaduce Neck." His manner of spelling the word is now the most common. Williamson's History, vol. ii., page 572, *note*, says "the peninsula, now Castine, originally bore the name of a resident Frenchman, called *Major Biguyduce*." As authority for this statement, the letter of Col. Jeremiah Wardwell, of Penobscot, dated March 21, 1820, and the certificate of Capt. Joseph Mansell, of Bangor, made June 27, 1831, are cited. Both papers are deposited in the library of the [Maine Historical] Society. They constitute the only support that a person named "Major Biguyduce" ever existed. Such an origin of the term is therefore erroneous. The author of the History

of Maine seems subsequently to have been convinced of his mistake, for in one of his manuscript books, I find the following: "*Marchebagyduce*, an Indian word, meaning *no good cove*." Mr. Eaton, in his Annals of Warren, page 20, *note*, also says Bagaduce is an Indian name, signifying "bad harbor." A tradition exists that it expresses the idea of great sorrow or trouble, because, at a remote period, the upsetting of a canoe in the swift current of the river, which flows above the peninsula, caused great loss of life, and consequent sorrow or trouble. Whatever may be the correct orthography of the word, no other conclusion than that it is of Indian derivation can be drawn. In support of which I can cite nothing more pertinent than the following extracts from a letter written relative to the matter, by the venerable Jacob M'Gaw, Esq., of Bangor, one of the founders of our Society, addressed to Hon. William Willis, under date of Aug. 5th, 1857.

"In my conversation with old Indians, I have learned from them that the word Majebiguyduce (first syllable pronounced as in our word *majesty*) is purely Indian, and is descriptive of the river which flows in front of the beautiful town of Castine. All old Indians united in defining *Majebigaduce* as being '*a river having many large coves or bays*.' One intelligent Indian says that it expresses or includes the idea of the bar or ledge that crosses the river about two or three miles above the village of Castine, and just below two large bays at the head of the river, called Northern Bay and Southern Bay. This ledge resembles a low dam, over which the tide water falls, after about half tide, so as to render the navigation by large vessels or boats difficult, until the obstruction made by the dam or ledge is overcome. As the orthography of the word Major-biguyduce or Maje-bigaduce is

altogether arbitrary, I have only attempted to spell it as nearly in accordance with the sound received as I can."¹

The beauty and prominence of its situation, added to the security and extent of its harbor, attracted the attention of the first voyagers who sailed along our coast, and under the name of Pentagoet, it was a well known place of resort to the French fishermen, long before any settlement had been effected north of Virginia. Champlain, who in 1604 entered Penobscot Bay, and who may be regarded as the first known white man who looked upon its spacious harbors and verdant islands, gives a conspicuous designation to Pentagoet² on the map which accompanies the account of his voyages, and the same place is mentioned by Captain John Smith, who visited it twelve years afterwards, as the principal habitation he saw to the northward.³ According to Bancroft, the first intelligible sounds of welcome which greeted the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, were from an Indian who had learned a little English of the fisherman at Penobscot.⁴

The Plymouth Company established a trading house at Penobscot in 1630,⁵ where they carried on an extensive traffic with the natives, for five years, when D'Aulney, a subordinate commander under Razillai,

the governor of Acadie, took possession of the country by virtue of a commission from the king of France. Four years previous, the French had obtained entrance into this trading house, by means of stratagem, and robbed it of goods to the value of five hundred pounds. An attempt was made by the Plymouth men to displace the French, and regain their possession, but it failed through the incapacity of the director of the expedition which was dispatched for that purpose. D'Aulney erected a fort, and made Penobscot his fixed place of residence. After the death of Razillai, he became involved in hostilities with La Tour, who had established himself at the mouth of the river St. John, and who claimed that the government of Acadie had been rightfully delegated to him. The bloody contentions of these rivals continued for many years to disturb the tranquillity of the English settlements, and form one of the most romantic passages in the history of the new world. D'Aulnay retained the control of Acadie until 1654, when it was conquered by the English. Col. Temple, the first English governor, resided at Penobscot after the French had left, and carried on a trade there.⁶ By the treaty of Breda, in 1667, it was restored to its former owners,⁷ and was by them retained for nearly a century.

BARON DE ST. CASTIN.

Although Penobscot is associated with the names of many of the most prominent adventurers who appear in our early history, that of Vincent de St. Castin is the most distinguished. He had been an officer in the body guard of the king of France, and was a man of wealth and distinction. Born near the Pyrenees, and accustomed to their wild and rugged scenery, the primeval forests of Acadie accorded well with his eccentric disposition, and soon after arriving at Quebec, in 1665, the regiment of which he was the commander having been disbanded, he selected the pine clad peninsula of Biguatus as his place of residence. On the same spot which had previously been occupied by D'Aulnay and by Temple, he erected a fortified habitation, and for over a quarter of a century carried on an extensive and profitable trade; receiving supplies of merchandise from France, and exchanging them with the Indians for furs. La Hontan estimated his profits to have been two or three hundred crowns,⁸ and Castin himself informed M. Tibierge, in 1695, that eighty thousand livres could be annually realized at Penobscot out of the beaver trade.⁹ A census of Acadie, taken in 1673, enumerates thirty-one white persons, including soldiers, who were connected, with Castin's estab-



Imagery of the Baron de St. Castin by artist Will H. Lowe, 1881. Wilson Museum Archives.

lishment.¹⁰ He formed a close alliance with the savages, by marrying the daughter of Madockawando, their chief, and his influence over them was so great that they regarded him as their tutelar god. Within his habitation was a chapel, decorated with the emblems of the Catholic church, and attended by several priests, whose solemn rites and unintelligible ceremonies have never failed to impress a barbarous people. To the exertions of Castin may be traced the origin of Catholicism among the Tarratines.

The extent of dominion and the wealth which Castin acquired rendered him to the French a powerful ally, no less than to the English a formidable adversary. A zealous bigot in religion, he was the frequent instigator of hostilities towards the Protestants, and on repeated occasions he took command of the Indians aided by reinforcements of French troops, in expeditions against the New England settlements. In several instances, however, the English were the aggressors. King William's war, by some writers called Castin's war, which was carried on between Massachusetts and the eastern tribes from 1688 to 1697, originated in the unprovoked robbery of Castin by the English.¹¹ In June, 1688, Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of Massachusetts, without a reasonable pretext, and influenced only by a desire of enlarging his power and of increasing his wealth, proceeded to Penobscot in the frigate *Rose*. Entering the harbor, he anchored before Castin's door, and sent his lieutenant on shore to request an interview. The Baron, suspecting that it was designed to make him prisoner, immediately retired with his company from the peninsula, and the Governor on landing found the house deserted. All the arms and ammunition which the fort contained, together with a quantity of merchandise and furniture, he placed on board the *Rose*, and carried to Pemaquid, "in condemnation of trading at Penobscot." The altar, pictures, and ornaments of the chapel were left undisturbed. Andros afterwards sent word to Castin that every article seized should be restored, if he would render allegiance to the English. But the base act so exasperated him that he refused to reply, and used his exertions to excite the Indians to hostilities, which they commenced the following August.¹² During the war, the English burned all habitations on the peninsula, obliging Castin and his servants "to hide their merchandise far in the woods, so as to have it secure from plunder."¹³

In 1703, while Castine was in France, the English again visited his fort, which he had rebuilt, and plundered it of all its most valuable articles.¹⁴ The next year, Major Church, in his fifth eastern expedition, killed or took captive, all the inhabitants at

Penobscot, both French and Indians. "not knowing," as he says, "that any one did escape." Among the prisoners was Castin's daughter, who said her father had gone to reside on his estate in France.¹⁵ Church also carried away all the valuables which could be found.

Castin went to France in 1701,¹⁶ and probably never returned to this country. His son by his Indian wife continued to reside at Penobscot, and for many years occupied an influential position among the savages. In the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are letters relative to Indian affairs, written as late as 1754, by Joseph Dabadis de St. Castin, who was probably a grandson of the Baron. Nothing is known of any of the family after that time. Some of them undoubtedly remained at Penobscot until the commencement of the French war. Gov. Pownall of Massachusetts, in 1759, took formal possession of the peninsula in the name of the King, and hoisted the English flag on Castin's fort. He found the settlement deserted and in ruins.¹⁷

It would be foreign to the object of the present article, to give any extended account of the history of Penobscot. It is sufficient to have traced the outlines of the principal events which occurred while it was under the control, and in the possession of the French, and especially during the residence of the Castins.

The mention of the discovery of a large and valuable collection of ancient coins in the immediate vicinity of Biguatus, is calculated to awaken all the interesting historical associations which for a period of nearly two centuries are connected with that locality, while the absence of even any traditionary evidence of such a deposit or concealment affords an opportunity for varied conjecture. It is proposed to give an account of this treasure trove, and of the means by which it was brought to light, and to make some suggestions as to the cause of its long inhumation.

It was not on the peninsula that these coins were found, nor within the limits of the town of Castine, but on the banks or shore of the Bagaduce river, about six miles from the site of Castin's fort, in the town of Penobscot. This river, at its mouth, forms the harbor of Castine, and is navigable for small vessels for several miles above the village. At about six miles above, is a point called "Johnson's Narrows," or "Second Narrows," where the water is of great depth, and at certain periods of the tide forms a rapid current. A path leads across the point, and from the adaptation of the shore as a landing place, it is probable that the usual passage from Biguatus to Mt.

Desert, was up this river as far as the narrows. Near the narrows the coins were discovered.

The first indication of the hidden coins was perceived at the close of one of the last days in November, 1840, by Captain Stephen Grindle, on the

farm he owned and occupied at the Second Narrows, before described. While engaged with his son, Samuel Grindle, in hauling wood down the bank to the shore, the latter picked up a piece of money near a rock which was partially buried in the ground. The rock was on a side hill, and when uncovered, presented an irregular surface of about four square feet. Its situation was some twenty-five

yards from the shore, and in the direct line of a beaten track through the bushes which has been used as a path across the point for a time beyond the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants. At termination of this path on the shore, is an indentation or landing place, well adapted for canoes, and the natural features and facilities of the spot are confirmatory of a tradition that one of the Indian routes from the peninsula to Mount Desert and Frenchman's Bay was up the Bagaduce river, and from thence across to Bluehill Bay. The land was very rocky, and covered with a second growth of trees; the original growth having been cut about seventy-five years. At the time the coins were found, Capt.

Grindle, together with his father-in-law, Mr. Johnson, had resided on the farm for over sixty years. Portions of the top of the rock were embedded in the soil to the depth of a foot, and a clump of alders grew around. The appearance of the place is not now the same as when the discovery was made. Repeated digging has laid the rock bare to the depth of several feet, and the side hill has washed away.

Upon finding the first coin, which proved to be a French crown, Capt. Grindle and his son commenced digging away the earth around the rock, and by the time it was dark, had possessed themselves of eighteen or twenty additional pieces. They then

abandoned the search, intending to renew it on the following day. That night a severe snow storm occurred, which covered the ground, and rendered further investigations during the winter impracticable. Early in the spring they resumed the examination. On the top of the rock, embedded in the mass, one or two coins were found, and upon striking a crowbar into the declivity, and grubbing up the alders, they came upon a large deposit, numbering some four or five hun-

dred pieces of the currency of France, Spain, Spanish America, Portugal, Holland, England, and Massachusetts. Mr. Grindle's wife held her apron, which her husband and son soon loaded with, as she afterwards remarked, "the best lapful she had ever carried." The

greater part of the money was found contiguous to the rock, but many pieces were afterwards exhumed ten or twelve feet distant. As several of the smaller coins appeared to be scattered down the declivity, it was probable that they were washed away by the action of the elements. No vessel or covering, or remains of any, were found in connection with the coins. Appearances indicated that the deposit was originally made at the side of, or perhaps on the rock, without any pro-

tection except a perishable one. Many of the coins retained their original brilliancy, but some were blackened and discolored by exposure to the weather. Dr. Joseph L. Stevens,¹⁸ of Castine, visited the spot early in April, 1841, while Capt. Grindle was still engaged in searching the ground, and several coins were dug up in his presence. An opportunity was afforded him to examine at his leisure the entire col-



Earthworks of the Chateau, St. Castin, France, taken of Dr. J. Howard Wilson, 1902. Wilson Museum Archives.



The Old Well, St. Castin, France, taken in 1902. Wilson Museum Archives.

lection, before the owner had disposed of any portion, and to select the most perfect specimens of each variety which could be found. These seventeen in number, he paid for at the rate of old silver. Other gentlemen secured similar samples; but Dr. Stevens' collection is the most complete that has been preserved. Most of the coins were paid to a creditor of Capt. Grindle, and ultimately found their way into the

crucible of a silversmith. The exact amount which their fortunate discoverer realized probably exceeded five hundred dollars. No other money has ever since been discovered at Johnson's Point, but the extent of numerous excavations in its vicinity indicate that the neighboring inhabitants believe that additional treasures are yet concealed.

... to be continued in the next issue.

WILLIAMSON'S FOOTNOTES (numeration adjusted for format)

1. I think the proper spelling of the word is *Matche-Biguatus*. *Matche* means *bad*, — as *Matchegon*, the Indian name of the north-eastern end of Portland, means *bad clay*, and includes Clay Cove. *Matche*, in all the New England dialects, expresses something bad; it is from *Mat*, no, not. In the Narragansett, *Matchit* means naught, evil; and in all its combinations implies negation. What *Biguatus* means, I do not know.
2. Champlain's Map, Berjon's edition.
3. Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc. iii. 21, 3d series.
4. Bancroft's Hist. United States, i. 316.
5. Bradford's Hist. Plymouth Plan., Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc. iii., 4th series.
6. Sullivan's Hist. Maine, 158.
7. Holmes' Am. Ann. I. 346.
8. La Hontan, New Voyages, i. 471
9. Memoir on Acadie by M. Tibierge, Oct. 1, 1695.
10. Coll. French MSS. Sec'y's Office, Boston, ii. 253.
11. Belk. Hist. N.H. 135.
12. Hutch. Hist. i. 330.
13. Memoir on Acadie, by M. Tibierge.
14. Hist. Maine, ii. 42.
15. Church's Fifth Exp. 261.
16. Copies of French MSS, in Sec'y's office, Boston, 5. 103.
17. Gov. Pownall's Journal.
18. I am indebted to Dr. Stevens for very valuable information in relation to the coins. Without his kind assistance, it would have been impossible to have prepared this article.



COLONIAL TOKENS.—Continued.

rev. "The beginning of oppression," cop.
; 20.

e; rev. "British justice displayed," cop.

; rev. pastoral scene, 1790, copper, proof, 20.

ht, "We ne'er shall look upon his like

rev. very curious device, copper, proof, 20.

; rev. satirical map of France, copper,

nd Gibbs and trial by jury," "Magna

"Bill of Rights," copper, fine and rare, 20.

COLONIALS.

g; this piece is from the celebrated collec-
tion the N. E. Threepence was recently dis-
covered in very fine condition, and guaranteed to be
extremely rare.

g, a different type, as fine and rare as the
and like it, warranted genuine.

Shilling, 1652, small conical tree, very large
and very fine.

Shilling, 1652, different tree, large planchet,
fine.

Shilling, 1652, from the Castine deposit,

Shilling, 1652, small size, unusually fine.

Shilling, 1652, tree broad, with straight
very fine.

Shilling, 1652, very curious, not easily des-
cribed variety.

Shilling, 1652, with very few branches, small
good condition, and a scarce variety.

Shilling, 1652, a splendid impression of a
remarkable type, but of doubtful genuineness.

Shilling, 1652, legend, *Massachusetts*, large
fine and extremely rare.

COLONIALS.—Continued.

Price.

\$6.00 2467. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree very slender, branches
commencing high up on the trunk, legend *Masasthu-*
sets, in the legend, New England, the N's are re-
versed; for an account of this unique piece from the
lot discovered at Castine, see *Historical Magazine*
for the present month.

1.00 2468. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, with all the figures remark-
ably large, poor, but rare.

1.25 2469. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree nearly oval, a very rare
variety.

1.00 2470. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, branches far apart, rather poor.

3.75 2471. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, large planchet, fine.

3.00 2472. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, branches large, large planchet,
very good.

2.00 2473. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, a different variety, condition
not equal to the last.

1.00 2474. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, branches very small, rare
variety, pierced, and in ordinary condition.

2.00 2475. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, faint impression, but not much
worn.

3.00 2476. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, tree resembling a clump of
bushes, legend *Maasathusets*, a curious and ex-
tremely rare variety.

1.25 2477. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, the inscription plain, but the
tree, if ever impressed upon the coin, entirely obliterated.

2.00 2478. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree very full of branches,
and nearly circular, fine and scarce.

3.25 2479. Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652, remarkably fine, purchased
for genuine, but now believed to be of Wyatt's issue.

3.00 2480. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652, large size, fine.

3.00 2481. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652, larger than the preceding,
and almost as fine.

5.00 2482. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652; in this variety the figure 2
being reversed, resembles a zero, an excessively rare
variety.

6.00 2483. Pine Tree Threepence, 1652, almost uncirculated,
scarcely ever seen so fine.

47.50
7193
3553.02
3712.45

Woodward 10/20/1863

6k

Murray

Cogan

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Harris

Cogan

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do

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do

do

do

Harris

Seamy

Murray

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Oct - 1863

WOODWARD

Price.

COLONIALS.—Continued.

- \$6.00 2467. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree very slender, branches commencing high up on the trunk, legend *Masachusetts*, in the legend, New England, the N's are reversed; for an account of this unique piece from the lot discovered at Castine, see *Historical Magazine* for the present month.
- 1.00 2468. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, with all the figures remarkably large, poor, but rare.
- 1.25 2469. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree nearly oval, a very rare variety.
- 1.00 2470. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, branches far apart, rather poor.
- 3.75 2471. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, large planchet, fine.
- 3.00 2472. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, branches large, large planchet, very good.
- 2.00 2473. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, a different variety, condition not equal to the last.
- 1.00 2474. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, branches very small, rare variety, pierced, and in ordinary condition.
- 2.00 2475. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, faint impression, but not much worn.
- 3.00 2476. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, tree resembling a clump of bushes, legend *Maasathusets*, a curious and extremely rare variety.
- 1.25 2477. Oak Tree Shilling, 1652, the inscription plain, but the tree, if ever impressed upon the coin, entirely obliterated.
- 2.00 2478. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, tree very full of branches, and nearly circular, fine and scarce.
- 3.25 2479. Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652, remarkably fine, purchased for genuine, but now believed to be of Wyatt's issue.
- 3.00 2480. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652, large size, fine.
- 3.00 2481. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652, larger than the preceding, and almost as fine.
- 5.00 2482. Oak Tree Sixpence, 1652; in this variety the figure 2 being reversed, resembles a zero, an excessively rare variety.
- 6.00 2483. Pine Tree Threepence, 1652, almost uncirculated, scarcely ever seen so fine.

December 1865

WOODWARD

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- 1594 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; letters on the obv. still smaller than the last; fine and a very rare variety. 3.50 *Salisbury*
- 1595 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; small tree, large dots in the circle, very fine. 3.00 *Smith*
- 1596 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, "Masachusetts;" an unusually fine specimen of this rare variety. 5.00 *Salisbury*
- 1597 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; tree tall and slender in all its parts, a rare kind. 3.25 *Smith*
- 1598 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; tall slender tree; inscription "Massachusetts;" the rev. has peculiarities scarcely less noticeable. Having never seen or heard of a similar one, I think this shilling may be unique. 3.00 *Smith*
- 1599 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; tree with branches widely spread and far apart, very good. 2.25 *Smith*
- 1600 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; small, close tree, fine. 1.25 *Smith*
- 1601 Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652; very good, scarce. 4.50 *Salisbury*
- 1602 Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652; not equal to the last. 2.00 *Salisbury*
- 1603 Pine Tree Threepence, 1652; remarkably fine, uninjured by circulation. 3.50 *Salisbury*
- 1604 Pine Tree Threepence, 1652; if possible even finer than the last. 2.25 *Smith*
- 1605 Pine Tree Threepence, 1652; a variety, very fine. 2.00 *Smith*
- 1606 Pine Tree Threepence, 1652; small size. 2.00 *Smith*
- 1607 Pine Tree Threepence, 1652; not fine, but differs from either of the preceding. 2.00 *Salisbury*
- 1608 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; large, and very fine. 5.00 *Salisbury*
- 1609 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; nearly as fine as the last and a rarer variety. 5.00 *Salisbury*
- 1610 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; fine and very rare variety, the tree being a shrub without a trunk. 4.00 *Salisbury*
- 1611 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; very large planchet. 1.25 *Smith*
- 1612 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; small round tree, trunk in three distinct parts. 2.00 *Smith*
- 1613 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; tree of few branches, and very small, fine and a rare type. 1.50 *Salisbury*
- 1614 Oak Tree Shilling, 1852; tree nearly circular, in very fine condition. 2.00 *Smith*
- 1615 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; tree with five large branches, fine. 1.50 *Smith*

December 1866

WOODWARD

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COLONIALS.

- 985 Same in brass; equally rare, 18.
986 Same in nickel; equally rare, 18.
987 Same in tin, 18.
988 Same in lead, 18.
989 Lincoln; rev. "Liberty, Union and Equality;" brass; fine, 18.
990 Head of N. P. Banks; rev. blank, a soldier's medal; tin; very fine, 21.
991 Robinson's medal of Van Buren; bronze proof, 22.
992 Small medal of Taylor; bust facing; rev. eagle; copper, 16.
993 Medal of Scott; brass, 16.
994 Bust of Van Buren; rev. safe; brass; good, 18.

COLONIALS.

- 2.00 995 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, struck from a very small die; fine.
8.25 996 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; *Massachusetts*, in the legend on the reverse the N's are inverted; originally from the Payson collection; good, and without doubt, unique.
2.25 997 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; originally on large planchet, considerably clipped, in other respects, good.
3.00 998 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; small size, thick planchet; in excellent condition.
3.00 999 Pine Tree Shilling, 1652; large planchet; slim tree, with few branches; fair.
2.25 1000 Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652; fine; rare.
1.75 1001 Pine Tree Sixpence, 1652; slightly pierced, in other respects, fair.
3.00 1002 Pine Tree Threepence, 1852; very fine indeed; rare.
3.25 1003 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; large planchet; very fine indeed; rare in this condition.
2.75 1004 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; different type from the last, but equally fine; not injured by circulation; rare.
2.00 1005 Oak Tree Shilling, 1652; large planchet pierced.

HOARDS

There are two hoards which are recorded with some degree of dependability. The first was found in Roxbury in 1863. This hoard contained twenty-eight pieces and was acquired intact by W. Elliot Woodward, a Boston coin-dealer. It was described in his catalogue of the McCoy Collection (1864, lot 1640) and offered as a single lot with an upset price of \$150.00 and withdrawn in the absence of a bid. In his next sale, the following year, the coins were offered without restriction and brought a total which was close to one hundred dollars. Had the hoard been preserved intact, helpful deductions would have been possible in all probability. An account of the finding was printed in *The Historical Magazine* for October, 1863, from which the following is taken:

"A few weeks since Geo. Wilber Reed, a little son of Geo. P. Reed, Esq., of this city, when climbing up a bank, through which a new street had recently been cut, to aid his ascent put his hand into a crevice by the side of a rock; on withdrawing his hand his attention was attracted by a piece of metal, which on examination he found to be a Pine Tree Shilling, with two other coins adhering. The boy of course continued "prospect-ing" until the "lead" was exhausted, and at the conclusion of his digging was rewarded by finding in his possession no less than twenty-eight pieces, comprising all the denominations of the Pine Tree money, all of the common types with a single exception.

"..... That the coins were not lost prior to 1662 is proved by the fact that several two-penny pieces of that date were found amongst them, while the fine condition of the pieces,

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coupled with the circumstances that no Spanish or other coins were with them, indicate that they were lost when the Mint was in its palmy days, and when the Pine Tree money was almost or quite the only currency in circulation in New England, say, between 1662 and 1685."

In this hoard, sixteen coins were Oak and twelve Pine Tree issues. We are able to identify one of the Pine Tree shillings (our No. 11), and possibly a second (No. 3?). At least one of the remaining shillings was of the small-flan type — possibly all four — the insufficient description prevents certainty. But the presence of the one small-flan shilling enables us to date the burial of the hoard after the small-flan came into use, after about 1675. Were we able to identify the other varieties, we might be able to tell from them whether the loss of these coins took place immediately after the change to the small form or nearer to the cessation of the coinage in 1682.

The second hoard was found at Castine on the coast of Maine in 1840. It was initially studied by Mr. Joseph Williamson.¹ A re-study of this hoard² was one of the results of the loan of this material for an exhibition held in the Museum of the American Numismatic Society in 1942.

The hoard is reported to have contained between four and five hundred pieces. The Massachusetts issues were said to have numbered thirty in one account and fifty to seventy-five in another description of this hoard. Fortunately, a selection of what purported to be one of each several variety contained in the hoard was made by Dr. Joseph L. Stevens of Castine, and this selection of seventeen pieces came ultimately into possession of the Maine Historical Society. There are four Pine Tree varieties. The date deduced for the burial of the

¹ *Collections of the Maine Historical Society*, Vol. VI, 1859, pp. 107-126.

² S. P. Noe, *The Castine Deposit: An American Hoard* (Numismatic Notes and Monographs 100).

deposit was about 1704. The three Pine Tree shillings are our Nos. 2, 25 and 29; there was also a sixpence. Specimens said to be from this hoard occur in auction sale catalogues,³ an indication of the possibility that more of these pieces than we think escaped the melting pot.

At Exeter in October, 1876, a hoard said to have contained thirty to forty Massachusetts shillings was found. A brief paragraph appeared in the *American Journal of Numismatics* for 1877 (p. 92), and a much more detailed account in the same publication for 1878 (p. 105) is signed C.H.B., probably C. H. Betts. Since many of our readers will not have this reference available, two pertinent paragraphs are appended.

"It was in the process of excavating a cellar under the extension of a store, not far from the railroad station, in Exeter, that the discovery of the coins was made. The Proprietor had given the earth to an Irish laborer, upon the condition that he would take it away. In throwing the sand into a cart, a few of the shillings were disclosed, though their value was not at once realized. The person to whom the earth was given, however, thought it worth his while to examine further the argentiferous soil before "dumping" it, and finally passed it through a sieve, realizing by the process quite a store of the pine-tree pieces. The exact number obtained in all cannot be ascertained, but is believed to be between thirty and forty. The greater part were found by the Irishman, but other persons picked up scattering specimens.

"The remains of what appeared to be a wooden box, much decayed, were detected in the sand; the coins in all probability had been inclosed in it. All the pieces found were shillings of the oak or pine-tree pattern, and bearing the date, of course,

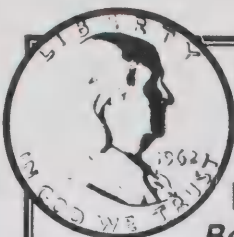
³ Oak Tree Shilling, Woodward Sale, Mar. 30, 1864, Lot 138 and Pine Tree Shillings, Woodward Sale, Apr. 28, 1863, Lots 1870, 1871, 1873 (small flan) and sale of Oct. 20, 1863, Lots 2460, 2467 (6-κ).

Coming from Boothbay Harbor, thirteen miles southeast of Bath, Maine, sometime before September, 1880, a small lot of "Pine Tree" pieces which might have been a part of a hoard is recorded in the Woodward Sale of the Jenks Collection (Sept. 1880), lots 429 to 431. The fifth piece appeared in Woodward's Sale of his own collection (1884, lot 354). The earlier sale under a caption "Treasure Trove" states "the four following pieces were found, quite recently, in a small cave in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. The entire find consisted of five pieces, and the finder, hoping to secure more, very judiciously keeps secret the exact place of discovery." The entry for the piece in the 1884 sale reads: "1652 Oak-tree Shilling. Found in a little cave with a number of others at Boothbay, Me., where it had lain long under salt water, the action of which reduced its weight nearly one-half. Piece broken from edge." There is little to be learned from the foregoing save that there were two Oak Tree shillings, and that one of the three Pine Tree shillings was a small-flan variety. Assuming that a hoard is represented by these five pieces, it would have been deposited after about 1675.

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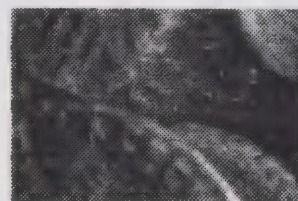
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Corrosion affects coinage buried below earth's surface

In light of the fact that I have recently returned from working overseas as a site conservator on an archaeological excavation, I am dedicating my next few columns to discussing coins which have been buried (i.e., ancients or those found by a metal detector). A buried coin is subjected to a wide variety of environmental factors which can affect its stability and survival, both in the ground and once excavated. Unless you are dealing with pure gold coins, most buried coins will be corroded. Burial exposes coins to environmental conditions that promote corrosion. Therefore, before discussing the specific effects that various burial

CORROSION makes its presence known on most excavation coins.



predict how the corrosion rate of one metal will compare to that of another. Given the same environmental conditions, baser metals will corrode faster than more noble metals. For example, an iron coin will corrode faster than a copper alloy coin buried next to it.

Two mechanisms are involved in corrosion: oxidation and aqueous corrosion.

Oxidation occurs when a metal reacts with the oxygen in the air, under dry conditions, to produce an oxide layer. This is what you see when a freshly minted copper coin changes from bright pink in color to the dull copper tone that we associate with cents. A strong, even oxide film can protect against further corrosion by slowing down the oxidation process. The oxidation film and the film's protective properties differ from metal to metal. If the protective oxide layer is removed or damaged through scratching or wiping, then the surface of the metal is no longer protected. Newly exposed surfaces will corrode, or oxidize, again to create a new oxide layer.

The other form of corrosion, aqueous corrosion, is a complicated electrochemical process that takes place in the presence of water, oxygen and impurities (e.g., salts) dissolved in the water. Since most metallic corrosion is aqueous corrosion, it is important to have a fundamental understanding of this process.

During aqueous corrosion, part of the surface of the metal is converted, in the presence of water, to positively charged metal ions. These metal ions are then free to react with any negatively charged particles, or anions, that are present in the water. This reaction forms a corrosion product that replaces some of the metal in the coin. The anions with which the metal ions react usually come from salts dissolved in the water. Take for example a piece of copper in contact with salt water. Once the copper begins to corrode, copper ions are free to react with the chlorine anions dissolved in the salt water. The resulting corrosion product is basic cupric chloride, an insidious corrosion product known commonly as "bronze disease."

It is important to remember that the water in this reaction need not be liquid; high humidity will provide enough moisture. Relative humidity levels above 35 percent can be considered corrosive for many metals. Imagine what burying a coin in damp soil could do.

Susan L. Maltby, Toronto, is a private conservation consultant, with an interest in numismatic preservation.



Preserving Collectibles Susan L. Maltby

environments have on coins, it is important to first understand corrosion and why it occurs.

Why do metals corrode? Most metals do not occur as metals in nature, but must be extracted from ores. Notable exceptions are gold, found as nuggets, and "native" or "float" copper. The heat required to extract a metal is absorbed and stored as energy in the metal. Thermodynamically, this is not a stable state. Metals try to release the energy, and in so doing, are trying to revert to being an ore. Corrosion is the process through which energy is released.

The amount of energy, or heat, required to extract metals differs from metal to metal. The Electromotive Series (below) ranks metals, relative to one another, in terms of the amount of energy needed to convert them from an ore to a metal or, on the contrary, back from a metal to an ore. The metals are listed from the most noble, such as gold and platinum, to the least noble, or base, such as aluminum and zinc. The noble metals at the top of the scale require the least amount of energy to produce and those at the bottom the most. Similarly, metals requiring more energy to produce will "try harder" to give that energy back.

The Electromotive Series establishes a hierarchy of corrosion allowing us to

The Electromotive Series

Noble metals with lowest potential

Gold
Platinum
Silver
Copper
Lead
Tin
Nickel
Iron
Zinc
Aluminum

Noble metals have the lowest potential for corrosion, since they take the least amount of energy to extract from ores.

Base metals require more energy to extract, and thus are more likely to corrode.

Base metals with highest potential

OLD and RARE COINS

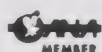
ting in gold and would like the added profit is an undervalued area of numismatics, gold coins.

ns are very scarce in Mint State. Yet, they above the most common dates.

TWO WAYS TO PROFIT?

prices (\$20 coins contain nearly one ounce) for these coins that I feel is on the horizon.

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| 6.00 | WTD | 1952 Plas. | 110.00 | 165.00 | 1964 P | 17.00 | 24.00 |
| SMS | 2.50 3.95 | 1953 | 85.00 | 117.50 | 1965 | 4.00 | 5.50 |
| SMS | 3.00 4.95 | 1954 | 50.00 | 70.00 | 1966 | 16.00 | 22.00 |
| SMS | 4.50 5.95 | 1955 | 35.00 | 49.00 | 1966 P | 20.00 | 27.00 |
| | 2.50 3.50 | 1956 | 18.00 | 24.00 | 1967 | 2.75 | 3.95 |
| | 2.75 4.25 | 1956 | 18.00 | 24.00 | 1967 P | 12.00 | 18.00 |
| | 8.00 10.95 | 1957 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 1968 | 6.00 | 7.95 |
| | 2.00 3.50 | 1958 | 13.00 | 19.00 | 1968 P | 13.00 | 19.00 |
| | 2.00 2.95 | 1959 | 10.00 | 14.00 | 1969 | 5.00 | 6.50 |
| | 5.00 7.95 | 1960 | 8.00 | 10.95 | 1969 P | 18.00 | 25.00 |
| | 4.00 5.75 | 1960 SD | 17.00 | 25.00 | 1970 | 9.00 | 14.00 |
| | 4.00 5.95 | 1961-63 ea. | 5.50 | 7.50 | 1970 P | 18.00 | 25.00 |
| | 4.00 5.95 | 1964 | 5.50 | 7.50 | 1971 | 18.00 | 23.00 |
| | 4.00 5.95 | 1968 | 3.25 | 4.50 | 1971 P | 40.00 | 52.00 |
| 3 pc. 40% silver | | 1969 | 3.00 | 3.95 | 1972 | 15.00 | 21.00 |
| pk. | 7.00 10.50 | 1970 | 6.00 | 8.50 | 1972 P | 40.00 | 55.00 |
| | 4.00 5.95 | 1971 | 2.25 | 2.95 | 1972 S Sil | 15.00 | 21.00 |
| | 3.50 5.95 | 1971 No S 5c | | | 1972 S Sil | 15.00 | 21.00 |
| | 3.00 5.50 | Scarce | WTD | WTD | 1973 | 15.00 | 21.00 |
| | 4.00 5.95 | 1972 | 2.50 | 2.95 | Prem. Sil | 18.00 | 21.00 |
| | 5.75 7.50 | 1973 | 4.00 | 5.75 | | 15.00 | 21.00 |
| | 2.00 3.95 | 1974 | 3.75 | 5.25 | 90-S Sil. | 19.00 | 25.00 |
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| | 9.00 12.50 | 1976 3 pc. | | | Prem. Sil | 19.00 | 26.00 |
| | 4.00 5.45 | 40% | 8.00 | 12.00 | 1964-S | 11.50 | 13.95 |
| | 2.00 3.95 | 1976 | 7.00 | 8.95 | 1964-S P | 35.00 | WTD |
| | 1.50 2.95 | 1977 | 3.00 | 4.25 | | | |
| | 3.00 4.95 | 1978 | 3.50 | 4.25 | | | |
| | 8.00 11.00 | 1979 | 4.50 | 6.95 | | | |
| | 6.00 8.95 | 79 Ty. 2. | 42.00 | 50.00 | | | |
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Some finds legitimate; some test boundaries of credibility

We'll pick up from where we left off last time, with more finds and discoveries of Massachusetts silver coins – many well-documented, while others are barely credible.

Pine Tree Silver Coins

1. A Noe-37 (*The Silver Coins of Massachusetts* by Sydney P. Noe) Pine Tree threepence was found in October 1992 in a New Hampshire farm field by Thomas G. Brown. It was subsequently authenticated by the American Numismatic Association's Authentication Bureau. The story was published in the *Coin World* issue of March 8, 1993, on Page 1.

2. There are at least two major hoards of Pine Tree silver coins still unbroken in



THIS PINE Tree threepence was found in a New Hampshire farm field by a collector using a metal detector.

Pine Tree coins, along with cut fractions of Massachusetts silver coins, used for making small change. The first and only U.S. sale, with a full description of the loss and the find, can be seen in Christie's February 1989 auction catalog. The Toronto firm of Jeffrey Hoare offered another portion in their Sale 26, February 1993. The Canadian government's portion of the recovered treasure is not for sale.

3. In a letter dated Aug. 18, 1902, published in *The Nummatist* of September, 1902 (page 278), George C. Arnold wrote that Pine and Oak Tree coins had been recently plowed up in Westerly, Conn. The coins were described as comprising eight of the 14 varieties then known. In his letter, Arnold said he had bought two pieces.

4. The *American Journal of Numismatics* of July 1890 reported on page 31 a story picked up from *The Boston Weekly News-Letter* of July 21, 1737, that told of a William Brown of Salem who said he had found six jars full of silver coins, weighing 1,093 ozs., including 6,000 New England shillings (meaning Massachusetts silver shillings in general, not necessarily the NE type), all described in 1737 as being "scarcely discolored." Since the weight of a Massachusetts shilling should be around 71 grains, if the story was true, the total weight of the 6,000 shillings said to have been found is off by about 10-15 percent from what one would expect that many shillings to weigh. The difference isn't so big as to automatically rule out the possibility of truth, however. The jars Mr. Brown said he found must have been pretty big and sturdy!

5. The Roxbury Hoard. A small boy, George Wilbur Reed, found this hoard in Roxbury, Mass., in 1863 while climbing up the side of a street excavation cut. Like the boy in the nursery rhyme, young George put his hand into a crack and drew out a Pine Tree shilling. After digging out the rest of the coins, young George had found 28 Pine Tree coins, including two 1662 twopences.

Michael J. Hodder is a researcher and cataloger specializing in U.S. Colonial coins, with his own business.



Colonial Americana
Michael J. Hodder

private hands in the Boston area. One of the hoards contains several hundred pieces, all said to be Uncirculated shillings, including Noe-1, 3 and 8. The other hoard is said to number in the thousands of pieces. The second hoard has been reliably reported; the first one has been seen.

3. The Castine Hoard. As reported by Sydney P. Noe in *American Numismatic Society Numismatic Notes and Monographs* (ANSNM) 100 (1942), the hoard was found around 1840 on Castine Island, near Penobscot, Maine. Noe wrote in 1942 that the hoard then contained three Pine Tree shillings and one Pine Tree sixpence. One of the shillings, Noe-12 (Crosby 6-K, *The Early Coins of America* by Sylvester S. Crosby), is unique. It was reported in the *Historical Magazine* (October, 1863) and was published and plated by Crosby (Plate II, 6). It was first sold publicly in William Elliott Woodward's October 1863 sale and is now in the Eric P. Newman collection. Newman exhibited it at the 1991 American Numismatic Society's Coinage of the Americas Conference. It is clearly a contemporary shilling and is probably not a contemporary counterfeit. Noe was incorrect when he wrote that the Crosby plate coin was a second example.

Multiple Massachusetts silver types

1. A hoard of Massachusetts silver coins, containing what were said to be "many" NE shillings, was reported to me in 1990. The hoard was said to have been seen in the Boston area. The coins were said to have been contained in several "old leather bags."

2. The wreck of the *HMS Feversham* (sunk October 1771). This Royal Navy vessel went down in a storm off Scatar Island, Cape Breton, Canada. Modern diving on the wreck began in 1985. Salvors recovered NE, Willow, Oak and



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Crosby 6-K (Plate II-6) same coin

62½ grains

Sp. gr 10.3

Noe 12

Nevin Wurtzbach

Historical Magazine Vol. VII p. 319
(New York, ^{Oct.} 1863)

"Unique Pine Tree Shilling - In a collection of coins recently belonging to Chas. Payson, Esq. of Portland, Maine, I find a very rare and probably unique specimen of the Pine Tree coinage. The piece is peculiar in several respects, but it differs from all others, which I have ever met with in the legend, which in this reads MASASTHUSETS instead of Massachusetts, as on the usual type. The coin is from the celebrated deposit found at Castine in 1840"

The article is a part of numismatic notes and is signed W.
(Elliot Woodward)

It is referred to by Woodward in his Oct, 1863 priced auction sale.

See Jan 1952 Numismatist on Coin Hoards

See Noe on Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts (ANS)
Noe 12 Crosby 6K

Identical specimen illustrated on Crosby ~~Plate~~

See Woodward Sale of 12/19/65 lot 1598 where it is described as unique, but the spelling of the obverse is MAS^SASTHUSETS instead of MASASTHUSETS.

Only specimen known

Pine Tree 12d Noe 12
The short weight of 63 grains
instead of up to 72 grains
may have been caused by
slight edge clipping or
snipping rather than entirely
by chemical action from being
burned for about 150-160 years
at Castine, Maine. There are
2 complete circles of dots on the
reverse and only a couple of
outer circle dots remaining on
the obverse, so that clipping
is quite probable.

1652 Massachusetts Pine
Tree Shilling N. 12
MASASTHUSSETS misspelled.
All "N"s are reversed.
Crosby 6-K (Plate II-6)
Not in Wurtzbach.
Very Fine for Piece. Unique

4.01 GRAMS Spgs
63.5 GRAINS 1000
One T. Newman nps

\$125.00

EPN
Nae 12

John M. Kleeberg

ANS Compose of Ana
Conference.

May 4, 1991

p. 196 Item 106 illustrated on p. 211

62 gr unique (4.01 grams) 12 o'clock

Castine Board

Wm. Edw. Woodward Oct 1863 sale
\$2467

Historical Magazine

"for present month" 1865

p. 125 sold to "Murray" for \$6

EPN Collection now,

Pine Tree Noe 12

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Wt in air | 4.03 | 4.03 | 4.03 ✓ |
| Tare | 1.83 | 1.91 | 1.955 ✓ |
| Wt in water | 5.455 | 5.55 | 5.565 ✓ 5.565 |
| Net Weight in water | 36.25 | 36.10 | 36.10 |
| Wt of water | 3.6 | 4.20 | 4.20 |
| Spec Grav. | 9.95 | 9.595 | 9.595 |